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SYNOPSIS

This study seeks to investigate the development of Red Deer and its tributary areas from 1884 to 1954. In particular it attempts to show that growth has been slow but substantial, and that the Eastern Canadian influence has been very great in the community. The first section deals with the geographical background, and gives an account of the first period of settlement which extended from 1884 to 1891. In the second division the economic development is examined. Basically Red Deer's prosperity results from its favorable location as a distributing centre and from the fertile agricultural area which lies on all sides of the city. The last two parts of the thesis are an examination of civic and social and cultural development. The findings show that in all aspects of community life Red Deer has been conservative but not reactionary, and that in a small way it has helped to exert a steadying influence in provincial affairs.



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PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS
OF THIS STUDY

Because Red Deer is the largest community between Calgary and Edmonton, the history of its development is an important part of any account of the settlement of Western Canada. Although many of the early records have been lost or destroyed, and many of the pioneers have passed from the scene, there is still in existence sufficient information to make possible an accurate account of the first seventy years of Red Deer and district. The purpose of this study has been to record some of the material which is still available, and to try to show the relation between events in Red Deer and the general development of the West.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF
THE RED DEER COMMUNITY
IN
RELATION TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN CANADA

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

BY
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RED DEER

in
Township 38 Range 27
West 4th



North

Inch = 1000 ft

Number Two
Highway
Edmonton
98 miles

Saint
Joseph's
Convent

20

60th Street

21

Traffic
Bridge

Composite
High School

Memorial
Centre

Cemetery

Leonard Gaetz
Homestead
1884

55 Street

Central
Schools

John Burch
Post Office

Leonard Gaetz
Memorial Church

Ross Street (50th)

G.W. Greene

Presbyterian
Church

Isaac
Gaetz

Exhibition
Grounds

Waskasoo Creek

40th Avenue

39th Street

Springbett
Drive

Caldwell
93 miles

8

9

Provincial
Wildlife Park

Second Lake

North Red Deer

Original Site of
Red Deer three
miles upstream

Canadian Pacific Railway

1891

Great West
Lumber Mill

Condonery

Station

Site of
old log
school



RED DEER, 1893

(Looking east along Ross Street)

(Photograph obtained from Mrs. T.A. Gaetz)





Red Deer, 1953

View from the East Hill

The large building in the right foreground is the Army Garage on 55 th St.

CHAPTER I

ORIGINS AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

In September, 1953 delegates of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce visited Red Deer. Their assessment of the town's importance in Alberta affairs is given in a newspaper report. "Red Deer is about the half-way mark in the two hundred miles separating Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta's biggest cities. The choice farmlands of Central Alberta and oil and gas discoveries have created a need for another hub between Calgary and Edmonton and Red Deer apparently is it.

"Its population now is approaching ten thousand, three times what it was at the end of the war.

"Red Deer is blessed in its location. Downtown its wide, busy streets are typically western, but its location on the Red Deer River, with its broad, rising banks and woods gives the residential area the appearance of parklands.

"If Red Deer has a rival as the hub of Central Alberta it is probably Ponoka to the north."¹

Red Deer is not only blessed in its location, as the report says, but owes its very existence to its position, which is ninety-three miles from Calgary and ninety-eight from Edmonton. The present city occupies parts

1. The Calgary Albertan, September 26, 1953

of sections 8,9,15,16,17,20,21,township 38,range 27,
meridian.
west of the fourth. As yet there is very little building
east of 40th Avenue, which is the road allowance
between sections 15 and 16. However, informed opinion²
is that the city will grow to the east and south.

The fifth survey meridian, which is 114 degrees
west longitude, just touches the eastern outskirts of
Calgary, and passes through Burnt Lake, which is eight
miles west of Red Deer. If a straight line is drawn from
Calgary to Edmonton, Red Deer lies about four miles
west of the point at which this line crosses the Red Deer
River. This fact may have some bearing on recent proposals
to re-route Number Two Highway, although the primary
purpose of any diversion would be to avoid the traffic of
a growing centre.

Many lakes lie close to Red Deer. Among these is the
popular summer resort of Sylvan Lake, with a permanent
population of more than a thousand people, and between five
and ten thousand during July and August. This resort is
fifteen miles west of Red Deer on Number Eleven Highway
which runs to Rocky Mountain House. Gull Lake, a much
larger body of water than Sylvan Lake, is twenty-five miles
to the north-west of Red Deer, and Pine Lake, which is said
to resemble Windermere in the English Lake Country, is
thirty miles to the south-east of the city. Smaller bodies
of water are Jackfish Lake and Blackfalds Lake, both about
six miles to the north, and the two Gaetz Lakes which are

in the Wildlife Park on the eastern outskirts of the city.

The altitude of down-town Red Deer is 2,819 feet,³ while the surrounding hills on which part of the city is built have an elevation of approximately 3,000 feet. This difference in elevation has a bearing upon the Weather Bureau's official temperature readings , which usually give a Red Deer temperature four or five degrees lower than at Edmonton. However, Red Deer readings are for the valley, and readings taken on the hills correspond closely to those reported for Edmonton. With regard to temperatures it should be mentioned that during the first period of settlement in the 1890's the Red Deer district acquired a bad name for frost, even oats failing to mature on frequent occasions. Discouraged by these setbacks many of the first settlers left the region and established themselves elsewhere.⁴ The mean temperature now is given as thirty-six degrees. On the average rain falls on eighty days in the year, although frequently the showers bring very little moisture , as is shown by the fact that the mean annual precipitation is only twenty inches.⁵ Hail occurs occasionally in the area, but severe storms have not struck the city itself for many years.

From the standpoint of geology the underlying rocks in the Red Deer area belong to the Paskapoo formation of the early Tertiary Age. These rocks are shales and sandstones

3. Geodetic Survey of Canada, Red Deer Bench Mark

4. W.P. Code (Pioneer); oral statement

5. Government of Alberta; Economic Survey of the City of Red Deer, April, 1949, p.1

with some quartzite. In the region of the East Bridge, which is seven miles straight east of town, the impressions of leaves and branches are clearly defined in the strata. A small deposit of volcanic ash is found near the bridge but although this material is exactly the same as "Dutch Cleanser" it is too small a deposit to have any commercial significance. Oil exploration has been carried out extensively in the East Bridge area, and production has been obtained at a number of wells.

In the Red Deer district the ancient glaciers left definite evidence of their work. "The Divide", a long, high ridge about six miles east of the city, is a glacial moraine.⁶ East and north of the city the river has cut its way through this ridge. A small stream has cut a deep gorge a short distance from the river channel itself. Between these two canyons is a high, narrow ridge of land about one-half mile long and in places only thirty feet wide. This feature, known as "The Hogsback", has long been a landmark in the area, and John McDougall has mentioned it in one of his books.⁷

The black soil of the area has a depth of at least a foot and is very fertile. This soil has three times as much nitrogen and organic matter as is found in the brown or gray wooded soils of the province.⁸ On two occasions, in 1947 and 1948, J.S. Alsopp won the world wheat championship

6. R.L. Whitney (Geology Instructor); oral statement

8. Government of Alberta; Economic Survey of the City of Red Deer, p. 1

7. John McDougall; Saddle, Sled and Snowshoe, William Briggs, Toronto, 1910, p. 72

with grain grown on a farm close to Red Deer.

Deposits of coal are found in the area, especially along the river. For many years coal has been brought in by wagon or truck from Ardley. In the depression years of the 1930's a number of small mines were operated along the river, sometimes by only one or two men, who sold the coal to truckers for as little as one dollar per ton. To-day farmers buy local coal from the Johnston and the Lynesse Mines, but there is no longer a market for solid fuel in the city itself because in 1947 the North-West Utilities brought in gas from the Viking field. At present Red Deer is the southern terminus of the company's pipe line.

The natural vegetation consists of grasslands, interspersed with clumps of poplar and willow. Large spruce, sometimes with a diameter of three feet at the base, grow along the rivers and on most steep north slopes. In early times, that is, before 1900, many areas which are now densely wooded were clear of trees. The change has resulted from the building of roads which act as checks to the spreading of fires. In pioneer times forest and prairie fires were very common. The Hospital Hill, now well covered with a grove of poplars, was open land in the early days of the settlement. Another example was given by a farmer near Pine Lake who said that forty years ago his father cut hay from a part of the farm now overgrown with trees and underbrush. On the

9. Edmonton Journal, November 10, 1953, p.73

10. E.A. Wood (Reporter); oral statement

11. George Best (Pioneer); oral statement

12. John Hodgkinson; oral statement

north slope of Michener Hill fire-blackened stumps are testimony of ancient fires , although this part of the district has not been burned over within the memory of the oldest settler.

The name Red Deer comes from the river which traverses the town. Because a large number of deer were found along its banks, this river was known to the Crees^{13,14} as the Waskasoo Seepee or Red Deer River. The creek which flows through the town still bears the Indian name, as does Waskasoo Avenue, one of the chief thoroughfares of the town. The Indians had a legend which accounted for the beautiful valley where the creek and river join. They said it was a resting place of Napia, the deity who created all beautiful things in this Western land. Because he was going to sleep there Napia took great pains to create the clear lakes, the tree-clad hills and the winding streams¹⁵ which still mark the Red Deer country.

The Red Deer River has a length of 385 miles in its winding course from the mountains to the point at which it¹⁶ joins the South Saskatchewan. The lower part of the river, near Drumheller, cuts through the Bad Lands, and it is there that the great beds of dinosaur bones are found. Here sixty million years ago roamed the duck-billed dinosaurs, the triceratops and the chasamosaurus. No one,

13. Annie L. Gaetz; The Park Country, Wrigley Printing Company, Vancouver, 1948, p.99

14. James G. MacGregor; Blankets and Beads, Institute of Applied Art, Edmonton, 1939, p.18

15. Edgar Woods; oral statement

16. James G. MacGregor; op. cit., p.16

however, has found any fossils of importance in the Red Deer district itself.

The Blindman, an important tributary, joins the Red Deer a few miles downstream from the city. This river received its name from an incident in very early times. A party of Cree hunters suffered so severely from snow blindness that they had to camp beside the stream until their eyes were healed. The Indians gave the river the name "Blindman" because of this happening. On the first survey map of the region the stream is named "Blindman's River".¹⁷

Morton places the Red Deer district well within the range claimed by the Blood Indians.¹⁸ To the north of the river lay the area dominated by the Hudson's Bay Company, and to the south of the stream was the region in which the whiskey runners and other free traders from the United States¹⁹ carried on their operations. "North of the Red Deer the Hudson's Bay Company and some free traders controlled the trade and commerce of the whole land. South of the Red Deer, and within recent years, Americans, or Long Knives, as they were called, had established some trading posts and wolfers' headquarters, and, as rumor had it, at these southern posts made-on-the-spot whiskey was the chief article of trade. North of the Red Deer river the pacific and humane policy of the Hudson's Bay Company made a wonderful difference

17. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 64

18. Arthur S. Morton; A History of the Canadian West, Thomas Nelson and Sons, Toronto (No date), p. 258

19. E. A. Corbett; Blackfoot Trails, McMillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 1934, p. 4

in conditions."²⁰

John McDougall's books have several references to the Red Deer region. On one occasion he speaks of travelling south on the "Blackfoot Trail" and crossing the Red Deer²¹ at the location of the present city. On this trip John and his father visited the Hogsback in the canyon region. The grandeur of the scenery greatly impressed the two men as they gazed down from the steep banks which towered six or seven hundred feet above the river. While hunting ducks in the area John dropped his gun, which fired on impact, the charge of shot wounding the elder McDougall. The two men spent some time in the vicinity of the mouth of the Blindman while the father recovered. During this interval they prospected for gold. "We found quite a quantity of colors, but as this was dangerous country, it being the theatre of constant tribal war, a small party would not be safe to work here very long; so it will be some time before this gold is washed out."²²

As a point of interest, no one has ever obtained any quantity of gold from the Red Deer. In the years of the depression a number of unemployed men made an attempt to earn a few dollars by washing for gold. Like John McDougall they found colors, but not enough of the precious metal to enable them to earn more than fifty cents per day each.

The original site of the Red Deer settlement was about three miles upstream from the present city. At this point there is a ford which can be used safely at nearly

21. John McDougall; Saddle, Sled and Snowshoe, p. 68

22. John McDougall; ibid., p. 72

20. John McDougall; Western Trails in the Early Seventies, William Briggs, Toronto, 1911, p. 10

all times. Here the Indians crossed the river on their journeys north and south, or west to Rocky Mountain House. For generations this old trail had been in use, running from Southern Alberta to Lone Pine, a solitary tree about three miles east of present-day Olds. The Cree name for this well-known Lone Pine was Minnie-hay-gwak-pask-wasksut. From Lone Pine the trail ran north to The Spruces, a grove of trees just north of Innisfail. ²³ From this point it continued on to the Red Deer Crossing. An intersecting trail ran from Buffalo Lake to about the point at which Number Two Highway now crosses the Blindman, ²⁴ and then west to Rocky Mountain House. The first survey maps refer to the Calgary Trail as the "Bow River Trail", but north of the Red Deer the route is described as the "Edmonton Trail". ²⁵

Although the country along the Red Deer was frequented by tribes who were generally at war with each other, there seems to have been no battles fought in the immediate vicinity of the town. According to old stories, however, one fight did occur at Pine Lake about thirty miles to the south-east. There in about 1812 a Cree camp was surprised and its inhabitants massacred by the Blackfeet. Only one Cree escaped the slaughter, a man who had been out of the camp when the attack came. On his return he found the

23. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 4

24. Annie L. Gaetz; ibid., p. 69

25. Department of the Interior, Survey Maps, 1883 -1884

dead and mutilated bodies of his relatives and friends. Determined on revenge, he stalked the Blackfoot war party, killing six of them before they managed to slay him. After this incident the Indians avoided the lake, which they said was haunted by the spirits of the murdered Cree tribesmen, and which was known for many years as Ghost Pine Lake.

Mr. Hugh Bower, whose farm touches the highway just south of town, has made a hobby of collecting Indian relics, especially arrow points and scrapers. He has several boxes of these objects, all collected within a short distance of Red Deer, and most from his own farm. From the places in which he found these flints the region along Waskasoo Creek must have been a favorite camping ground in early
26
times.

The Indians sometimes disposed of their dead by placing them on platforms built in the trees. Although this custom had been abandoned by the time the white settlement began, the platforms were still to be found. The bodies themselves were gone. Just after the Gaetz family came to the district, a severe small-pox epidemic swept through the Indian camps, and many people died of the disease. The graves of some of these small-pox victims are on the Opie farm north-east of the Red Deer Crossing, and some are on the Convent Hill near Number Two Highway.
27

26. Hugh Bower; oral statement

27. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 89

A map of the areas inhabited by the Canadian aborigines shows Red Deer well within the range of the Blood band of the Blackfoot Confederacy.²⁸ The custom of burial scaffolds, mentioned by Mrs. Gaetz, was a characteristic of this tribe. In 1858 the Blood band was estimated at 250 tents, or about 2,000 people, but by the time of the settlement in 1884 their numbers had fallen considerably.²⁹ In addition to the Bloods the area seems to have been visited frequently by the Crees and by the Stoneys, with whom Mr. Raymond Gaetz traded frequently at Red Deer Crossing.³⁰

By Mr. Gaetz's time most of the Indians were outwardly Christian, but they continued to pay some respect to their old deities. Even to-day the Indians hold an annual Sun Dance at Rocky Mountain House, showing that the traditions of a race die hard. In and around Red Deer itself the Indians have almost all disappeared. A few are found mingled in with the general population. They have no peculiarities of dress to distinguish them from the whites, but because they lack training they tend to fall into the lower paid manual labor jobs.

Some years ago the writer observed an old Indian sitting on the hillside just west of the Training School. It was nearly sunset, and the old man was gazing steadily at the town in the valley, and at the sun just touching the

28. Dominion Government, Department of Mines;
Map 270A, Aborigines of Canada, 1932

29. Diamond Jenness; Indians of Canada, King's Printer,
Ottawa, 1932, p. 324

30. Raymond Gaetz; Trading with the Stoneys (Essay) 1934

mountains in the west. The alien was strong in the land of his fathers; the scene symbolized the decline of his race.

The first white man to visit the Red Deer region, so far as is known, was Anthony Henday. In 1754 this Englishman was sent out by Governor Isham of York Factory on Hudson Bay in an attempt to encourage the Western Indians to trade with the Company's forts on the bay. On December 23, 1754 Henday on his return from the vicinity of present-day Rocky Mountain House crossed a branch of the Waskasoo River, probably the Blindman, and continued southward to a high knoll, from which on the next day he bade farewell to the Rockies. "I had a fine view of Arsinie Watchie at a far distance, it being the last sight I ever shall have of it this year."³¹ From his route it appears likely that the elevation from which he had the fine view of the Rockies was Antler Hill, east of Innisfail. As the distance from the Blindman to Antler Hill is about twenty-five miles, Henday probably used the Red Deer Crossing on December 23 or 24, 1754.

With the establishment of Rocky Mountain House by the North West Company in 1799 at the confluence of the Saskatchewan and Clearwater Rivers, the old Indian trail³² to the north gained importance in the life of the region. The crossing of the Red Deer, therefore, became more and more of a landmark. Red Deer still is a junction point for north and south traffic with that going west to Rocky Mountain House, sixty miles distant.

31. Arthur S. Morton; op. cit., p. 248

32. Arthur S. Morton; ibid., p. 463

The first building at Red Deer Crossing was a small cabin which had been built ,according to local tradition, by Addison McPherson, who used it as a temporary headquarters when he was hunting and trading with the Indians in Central Alberta. When Dr. Leonard Gaetz came to the area in 1884 this building was still standing, and served as temporary accommodation for settlers' families.

In 1878 Angus McPhee, Dominion Land Surveyor, visited the Red Deer area and was greatly impressed by the agricultural possibilities of the district. Five years later he made an official survey of the region, making it possible for homesteaders to register their lands by legal description.³⁴ In 1881 before the survey was made, John T. Moore of Ontario visited the district as an agent for the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company, a group of Eastern business men who proposed to buy Western land and sell it to settlers. Mr. Moore bought for the company at a price of two dollars an acre the odd-numbered sections in a tract thirty miles long and eight miles wide. Red Deer city lies almost exactly in the centre of the land purchased by Mr. Moore.³⁵ In accordance with government policy of that day the even-numbered sections were left open for homesteaders, unless reserved for some special purpose. By way of contrast with the price paid by Mr. Moore the same land to-day sells for a price of about seventy-five dollars an acre,

33. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 46

34. Government of Alberta; Economic Survey of the City of Red Deer, p.1

35. Red Deer Advocate, Jubilee Edition, July 18, 1934

and even in depression years unimproved land near the town brought a price of over thirty dollars an acre. The survey maps of 1883 describe the land as "first class, covered with poplar and willow". These township maps also show numerous large marsh areas, but with the opening of the country most of these low-lying places were drained.

In 1882, just the year before the survey, the first agricultural settlers, Daniel Dobler and his wife, came to the valley of the Red Deer. They spent only a few months on the land they selected before they returned to Ontario, making the trip across the plains by ox team. They came back to the district in 1885, and remained until the 1890's when they sold out and returned to Ontario. The next settlers were four young single men, Bob McClelland, Bill Kemp, and two cousins, George and Jim Beatty, who reached the Red Deer Crossing on September 29, 1882. It must have been a very early winter for there were over two feet of snow on the ground. These men chose sites for their homesteads and then went on to other occupations. The Beatty cousins joined a survey party which was working north of Edmonton, while the other two men found employment freighting for the I.G. Baker concern. About a year later all four men returned to Red Deer Crossing to establish settlers' rights on the land they had chosen.

Mr. James Youmans, a long-time resident of Red Deer, was in 1883 a missionary stationed at Whitefish Lake. In

36. Red Deer Advocate, July 18, 1934

37. Raymond Gaetz; The Early Settlement of Red Deer (Essay)

the summer of that year he travelled from Edmonton to Calgary by Red River cart, and in all that journey south he saw no white habitation other than that of Mr. E.B. Glass, a missionary at Bear's Hill, ten miles south of Wetaskiwin. On the return trip, however, when he came to Red Deer Crossing he saw a log barn under construction. The building was about one-half mile south of the fording place on the land chosen by McClelland. In that same year George Beatty established himself about two miles south of the Red Deer Crossing on land which is still known as the Beatty Flats. In the winter of 1883 George and William Byers arrived in the district, and in January, 1884 Sage Bannerman,³⁸ who later operated a ferry, came to the Crossing. There were, therefore, several other settlers in the vicinity when Dr. Leonard Gaetz brought his family to the site of the present city in the spring of 1884.

The Canadian Pacific Railway reached Calgary in August, 1883, and soon afterwards two partners, Leeson and Scott by name, established a horse-drawn stage to take mail and passengers to Edmonton. Leeson and Scott were experienced stage-coach operators, having established a successful business of this kind at Prince Albert. Although they managed the Calgary-Edmonton service themselves, they hired others to do the actual driving. Even at the best of times travel was slow, and the stage which left Calgary on Monday did not reach Edmonton until Friday, but the settlers were pleased that they could expect a regular

mail service from Calgary once every two weeks. Because people from a very wide area received their mail at the Crossing, many settlers living at places far distant from the present city were often described as residents of Red Deer. The stage operated until the coming of the railway in 1891.

In the summer of 1885, after the Second Riel Rebellion, travel was greatly facilitated when the government established a ferry at the crossing of the Red Deer. Sage Bannerman operated the ferry until the coming of the railway in March, 1891. After that date any travellers who came along the old route had to ford the river. Construction was started on a traffic bridge, which was completed two years later.

With the establishment of the stage service from Calgary to Edmonton, G. C. King, a Calgary merchant, erected a small log building in December 1883 at the Crossing. Mr. King did not plan to operate the Red Deer business himself, but hoped to be able to hire someone to manage it for him. However, he found absentee proprietorship impracticable under the transportation conditions existing in the early days, and after a few months he sold the business to Dr. Leonard Gaetz. This building, which served as a combined store and post office, was the first permanent trading post between Calgary and Edmonton, and its establishment was the beginning of Red Deer as a distributing centre. The location of the building is



CAIRN AT SITE OF OLD TRADING POST

Trading Post was built in 1883.

This was the beginning of Red Deer as
a distributing centre.



THE OLD CROSSING (LOOKING NORTH)

Used by the Indians long before the
white man came to the West.

First white man to cross - Anthony Henday,
December, 1754.

Red Deer started here.

The Old Crossing was abandoned when the
railway crossed the river at the Leonard
Gaetz Homestead.

marked by a cairn which the Old Timers' Association⁴⁰ erected in 1951. The plaque bears the following inscription: "This marks the site of the first trading post between Calgary and Edmonton, and the Old Red Deer Crossing. Erected by the Old Timers' Association in memory of those who pioneered the Red Deer District. Yr. '51."

The first buildings which the settlers erected were mainly of logs, although rough-sawn lumber became available after 1884 when a small, portable sawmill was imported and placed in operation. The typical log house in the region was constructed from spruce or poplar. A skilled axman was able to dovetail the corners of the house, but an average builder normally used a simple, notched type of corner. In the very early times the logs were used in the round state, but later it became customary to smooth both the inside and the outside surfaces with an adze. The pioneer often used moss or clay for chinking, but if he could get it he preferred to use a lime mortar. At Sylvan Lake the writer examined one small house which had been built by a Frenchman named Gerrard. The chinking in that building had been done by means of strips of folded newspapers held in place by small sticks nailed along the crevices between the logs. The date on the newspapers was 1900.

The floor was generally of packed earth which was⁴¹ covered by cowhides or deerskins. A simple roof was constructed by making one wall higher than the other

40. See Appendix

41. Mrs. William Cassels; oral statement

and placing long poles across the top. If the settler wanted a building of greater than average width he used a ridge pole and built an A-shaped roof. He then covered the poles with a layer of hay. Long strips of sod, grassy side down, were placed directly on the hay. Then the builder placed a second layer of sod grassy side up. This last layer he overlapped in the manner of shingles. The settler considered himself lucky if a rain occurred soon after he finished the job, because the moisture caused the sods to grow together, making the whole mass almost impervious to rain. A properly constructed sod roof was very good insulation against the heat of summer and the cold of winter. Its disadvantage was that a prolonged spell of wet weather generally caused it to leak.

In 1884, in anticipation of the needs of settlers for lumber two halfbreeds, Mackenzie and Wishart by name, began to operate a small portable sawmill on the river flats about three miles downstream from the present city.⁴² One may still recognize the old mill site which is on the present Northey farm. Trees of considerable size grow up the steep bank, but one may easily discern the trail even after seventy years.

In 1884 Thomas Lennie and his wife built a stopping house at Red Deer Crossing, just across from the combined store and post office established by Mr. King. Mrs. Lennie

42. Byron Northey; oral statement

was a native of the Red River country, the daughter of a free trader and an Indian woman.⁴³ She helped Ray Gaetz a very great deal when, at the age of eighteen, he took over the management of the little store which Dr. Leonard Gaetz, as mentioned previously, had bought from Mr. King in August 1884. Mrs. Lennie, who had experienced the uncertainties and fears of the Red River Rebellion, prevailed upon her English husband to leave Canada for the United States when word reached Red Deer Crossing in the spring of 1885 of the Second Riel Rebellion.

Because stopping houses played an important part in early Alberta life, an account of their rough but welcome accommodation may be of interest.⁴⁴ The one at Red Deer Crossing was apparently typical, and of considerable importance. There were others at Lone Pine, (near Olds) and five miles south of Penhold. The proprietor provided a number of rough wooden bunks which were fastened to the walls. These bunks were filled with hay for a mattress but the proprietor provided no bedding. Firstcomers reserved this superior accommodation for themselves by placing their blanket rolls in the bunks. Usually there were only about six bunks, which meant that late-comers had to content themselves with a place on the floor on which they could spread their bedding.

43. Raymond L. Gaetz; The Great Adventure

44. Annie L. Gaetz; Edmonton Journal, March 18, 1953

Women travellers could secure privacy by hanging a blanket in front of one of the bunks. Many travellers had tents of their own which they pitched near the buildings for protection and company. The proprietor charged fifty cents for a night's accommodation, which included one meal. Because most of the stopping-house owners were bachelors the bill of fare was simple and rough. A coarse, fatty bacon, which had green streaks through it, giving it the name of "rattlesnake bacon", bannocks, beans, tea and coffee were all that were usually served to the traveller.

The first settlers within the present city limits arrived in 1884 when the Reverend Leonard Gaetz and his family came to the district. Their coming has been well described by the eldest son, Ray, who was eighteen at the time of their coming, and had just finished high school. A keen observer, he had the academic training necessary to record his experiences. The Gaetz family had a long tradition of pioneering in Canada. In 1751 the founder of the family in the New World crossed from Hanover to Nova Scotia, settling at Lunenburg. In the midnineteenth century a great grandson of the original immigrant moved to Upper Canada, where, in 1883 his son, Dr. Leonard Gaetz, was the pastor of a Methodist church in London.⁴⁵ The nervous strain of his work was too

45. R. L. Gaetz; The Great Adventure

great for Dr. Gaetz, and in the summer of 1883 his physician warned him that he must for a time at least give up active public life.

In the Ontario of that day a spirit of restlessness was in the air. Most of the good farming land of the province had already been settled. The young men, especially from the rural communities, found an outlet for their energies in the United States and in the Canadian West. Dr. Gaetz, although not a young man, decided to investigate the possibilities of obtaining suitable land in the North-West Territories, through which the Canadian Pacific Railway was building. Accordingly in September 1883 he travelled to the end of steel, which at that time was somewhere between Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat. There he had the good fortune to meet Chief Factor Richard Hardisty of the Hudson's Bay Company, who, with traditional Western hospitality persuaded Dr. Gaetz to accompany him from the end of steel to Calgary and thence north to Edmonton. The visitor was willing and even anxious to make this trip because he had received very favorable reports of the country from John T. Moore who had visited the region as an agent for the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company. The intermingling of prairie and woodland in the vicinity of Red Deer Crossing appealed greatly to Dr. Gaetz, and he gave it the name which it still bears, "The Parklands".⁴⁶ He determined that somewhere in the region he would make his home.

46. Raymond L. Gaetz; op. cit.

Dr. Gaetz returned to his family in London, and on April 1, 1884 they loaded their stock and goods for the long trip to the West. Because there was no line around the north shore of Lake Superior the journey had to be made through Minnesota and Dakota. They made good time, and on April 8 reached Calgary, at that time "a little frame station in a little village, whose houses were constructed chiefly of boards and tar-paper. But the glorious Alberta sun was bright with all its accustomed power in a wonderfully radiant sky, and seemed to beckon the newcomers to a great heritage in a mighty land."⁴⁷

The three older boys (there were ten children) Ray, Halley, and Clarence, left for the Red Deer River with their outfit. Some half-breed freighters with whom they travelled promised to look after them. Horses drew all of the Gaetz wagons except one, which was drawn by an ox team, and these beasts gave their driver, Halley, endless trouble and delay. Fortunately the weather continued bright and sunny, and by the afternoon of the seventh day they reached Red Deer Crossing. When they were only a short distance from their destination they looked back and saw a cloud of dust over the trail. "Shortly, out of this dust emerged the Reverend John McDougall, who had got it into his head to bring father up from Calgary,

47. Raymond Gaetz; op. cit.

and a little hundred mile jaunt for the Reverend John was as nothing!"⁴⁸ The Reverend John took the father and the three boys to the Beatty shack, whose occupants made them all most welcome. They fed the animals and gave the visitors a meal of ducks and prairie chicken. Next morning when they set out in a democrat to find a suitable homesite they gradually explored their way down along the river to the region where Waskasoo Creek joined the Red Deer. Raymond Gaetz said later, "I really think what decided father on the location was the sight of the river with its beautiful trees along the banks and of the well-wooded hills which made such a charming background."⁴⁹

Near the river, about where the traffic bridge is to-day, some trapper or squatter had built a ten by twelve shack, but he had abandoned it. The Gaetz boys moved as many of their possessions as possible into this shelter. Next morning they started to construct a home of their own. The boys set to work getting out logs, while the father went to George Beatty to secure advice on how to build. Beatty at once offered to look after the whole affair. "The next morning who should we see coming across the flat but four men of sacred memory--George and James Beatty, Bill Kemp and Bob McClelland. To make a long

48. Raymond L. Gaetz; op cit.

49. Raymond L. Gaetz; op. cit.

story short they laughed at the logs we had been getting out, went down the river about a mile, took out some fine spruce, hewed them, and put up the house in an unbelievably short time." ⁵⁰ The lumber for the roof and interior finish was secured from the recently started sawmill of Mackenzie and Wishart. ⁵¹ The workmanship may have been rough, but the newly milled spruce gave the air in the first home in Red Deer an unforgettably pleasant tang.

An incident in the construction of the Gaetz home typifies the Western attitude of the day. "One afternoon when all the work was done, father called these heroes about him (I really must repeat their names again, George and Jim Beatty, Bill Kemp and Bob McClelland) and said to them, now men, how much do I owe you for your work, and then I heard one of them swear fiercely for the first and only time before father; they were indignant because father asked them to accept pay for their work."⁵²

50. Raymond L. Gaetz; op. cit.

51. Lumber produced by small Western mills of the 1880's was almost always sold in the rough. To allow for planing boards were usually slightly over the stated width and thickness. As a result even when dressed an inch board, for example, was the full inch in thickness. The nails used in 1885 were square in section, tapering to a point, something like a modern horseshoe nail.

52. Raymond L. Gaetz; op. cit.

When the men had completed the house Dr. Gaetz and Clarence started off with two wagons for Calgary. On their return they brought with them Mrs. Gaetz and the rest of the children. The first family had settled in Red Deer.

During the first summer Dr. Gaetz and his sons accomplished a great deal of work such as breaking land, building corrals and shelter for the stock, and erecting fences. The oxen proved especially valuable for the chore of breaking. The family had brought large supplies of non-perishable foods, flour, beans, rice, and sugar with them, but the country itself provided a good deal. No closed season existed and wild birds and animals were a source of fresh meat. Duck eggs could be found around the sloughs. Gardens did well on the breaking.

At the end of August Mr. G. C. King, who owned a store in Calgary, and who, as we have seen, had established a trading post on the Red Deer in 1883, came to visit the Gaetz family, whom he had met previously. Mr. King wished to dispose of his store at the Crossing as it was too far from Calgary for him to manage. He persuaded Dr. Gaetz to purchase the business, paying for it as the stock was sold. The eldest son, Ray, as already mentioned, took

charge of the post. "At that moment I was the only white trader between Calgary and Edmonton, an honor I assumed with great timidity, for I knew nothing whatever about trade, naturally, having just come out of high school. However, everyone of us had to do his bit, and this seemed to be mine."⁵³

A few days after Ray had taken charge a half-breed brought in three small skins. The youthful trader had no idea of what they were worth, but wanted to disguise his ignorance. He boldly offered twenty-five cents per skin. The half-breed accepted so quickly that Ray realized that something was wrong. He hurried across the trail to the stopping house where Mrs. Lennie told him that he should have paid five cents per skin for the furs, which were muskrat. Ray, realizing that the Indians would be almost his only customers during the winter, arranged with Mrs. Lennie to assist him in his trading deals. She also taught him the Cree language, and by spring he had mastered the native tongue sufficiently well to graduate into the Indian trading class.⁵⁴

Incidentally, shortly before Mr. Gaetz's death the writer asked him what furs he had obtained from the Indians. Mr. Gaetz enumerated the common ones, mink, beaver, muskrat, wolf, lynx, fisher, coyote, and then hesitated for some

53. Raymond L. Gaetz; op. cit.

54. Raymond L. Gaetz; op. cit.

time, saying, "There was another one. I remember the Indian name for it perfectly, but I cannot think of the English term." The name actually was the wolverine but the incident shows how much his trade had been with the Indians because after the lapse of half a century the Indian term was recalled.

Frequently the Indians would come on a cold, still night in winter when the temperature was ten degrees below zero, or even colder. Sounds would carry enormous distances but generally the silence was so complete that it was almost oppressive. The Stoneys had developed the habit of establishing a camp for their women and children some distance from the post while the men and older boys came on alone to do the trading. When Ray heard the crunching of snow under the feet of horses he knew that his customers would soon be with him. Therefore, he hurriedly filled the stove to capacity with wood, placed on a huge kettle filled with water, and laid out a large supply of tobacco. The members of the Indian band unsaddled their horses and set the packs of fur against the walls of the post. The headman waited until all his party were ready, and then he led them, twenty or so in number, into the store. Etiquette demanded that all shake hands ceremoniously, and that each person, even down to boys of ten or twelve, be given a plug of tobacco. After these formalities had

been complied with the natives sat down on the floor, as close as they dared to the stove, which by now was red hot.

"While they were silently filling their pipes (we felt that they were really too chilled to speak) we were exceedingly active, for our duty was to serve supper to them, which we did with a hearty good will, for although red men, strangely clad, were they not humans and our brothers, and had they not had a bitterly cold day's journey without a bite to eat all through the day? Great slices of bacon cut from such sides as we don't see nowadays, were put in the heavy iron frying pans, and presently the store dimmed with the gathering clouds from the sizzling pans. Our nostrils were regaled with a most delicious smell from the cooking sowbelly, and other smells emanating from about the stove that were not quite so pleasing."⁵⁵

Sacks were spread on the floor to serve as tablecloths and on them were placed the dishes, huge quantities of hard-tack biscuit, tins of thick treacle, and occasionally even butter. When the latter was available it was generally very strong and "self-reliant." After the tea had been thoroughly boiled, the Stoney word for "eat", phonetically "ho-mun-dink-touch", was pronounced, but not with the results one might expect.

55. R. L. Gaetz; op. cit.

"These half-starved men did not rush at the food, as some of their white brothers might have done, but with a good deal of dignity gathered around the food and partook of a real meal." ⁵⁶

After they had eaten the Indians clustered about the stove and smoked. Ray cleared away the dishes and sacks before he joined the natives.

"The next half-hour would be spent in gossip. Jacob Rain would tell about losing a horse. John Brown Bear would tell about having a daughter, telling it in a way that suggested to us that he would have been much prouder had it been a boy, but perhaps we misinterpreted his grunts." ⁵⁷

After he and his followers had met the demands of etiquette, the leader would voice the question all wanted to hear, "Is fur good?" By this he wanted to know the price. The trader always gave a non-committal reply to this traditional query. The headman then sent one of the boys to bring in one of the packs of furs. The leader unbound the package and spilled the furs about on the floor. After he had done this task he always turned back to the stove in pretended indifference. Ray, although nearly

⁵⁶.R. L. Gaetz; op. cit.

⁵⁷. ibid.

blinded by the smoke and suffocated by the heat and fumes, had to match this indifference with his own, lighting his pipe and leisurely strolling over to the furs to sort and value them. When he had decided on the price he could afford to offer he would inform the headman of the amount in pounds sterling because the Hudson's Bay Company had taught the Indians the English money system. The actual value placed on a pack might amount to a considerable sum, often as much as fifty pounds. The common furs traded at the Red Deer store were beaver, bear, fisher, marten, mink, lynx, an occasional wolverine, skunk, wolf and coyote.

After the trader had made his offer, an animated discussion, in which even the youngest took part, occurred among the Indians. When they had satisfied themselves that the trader would pay no more they accepted his offer. The settling of the prices for this first lot seemed to content them for the evening, because from then on they accepted his valuations without question.

Having put the contents of the first pack out of the way Ray asked the owner what he wanted to buy with the money which he now had to his credit. "The question seemed to come to him as a complete surprise; he just hadn't

thought of that, so he might turn to his ten-year-old son who had accompanied him, and ask the lad what they would have. And what do you suppose was the first thing on the order? Five dollars' worth of ribbon! and then perhaps another five dollars' worth-- then colored prints, shawls and other fabrics. I soon found that it was well to suggest to them after they had spent half their amount that they should get some grub, ammunition and other necessities, to which they generally agreed as they had apparently forgotten such trifles. It was strange-- in fact an interesting study in primitive man's psychology, that while these necessities were forgotten, no sooner had his sum been exhausted and no more balance due him on his fur, than his subjective mind rose to the surface of his consciousness, and reminded him that he needed food and ammunition above all things, and that the trader could hardly refuse him these vital necessities on credit."

A night of this kind proved long and tiring because it might be three o'clock in the morning before Ray had finished all that he had to do. During this long process under no condition was a door or window to be opened. Relief from the heat, smoke and odors only came when Ray retired to a little room which he had partitioned off at the back of the store.

"I would throw open my window, no matter if it was sixty below--the cooler the better, for my poor head was nearly splitting. Then to the sound of the frost ripping the ice in the nearby river, the cracking of the logs in the walls of the store, and the cry of a coyote in the woods down the river, I would drop asleep. Where would my Indian friends be when I retired from the scene? In the store of course, and no place else. I traded with them from the fall of 1884 until the spring of 1891, during which period they made about five visits each winter, and in all that time I never knew them to take so much as a match off the counter!"

During the remainder of the night the Indians repaired their gear. In the early morning they tapped lightly on the door of his little room as a sign for him to get up and prepare breakfast for them. He tried leaving out food, but regardless of this they would never prepare their own meals. When they had everything ready for departure they would all come back inside the store and shake hands in a very formal manner. The visit was a combination of a commercial transaction and a social occasion.

"Did I like these fellows? Certainly I did. I got to know them, know their families, their hopes and their ambitions, and some of the trivial details of their lives,

and to know them as I did in those days was to like them, and I would feel a bit lonely as I saw them go off in the half light of those early mornings, and a bit sorry for them too, for I realized that I represented just the trickling of a great tide of white immigration that would ultimately swamp them, and rob them of a heritage that their children could never enter into." 58

Soon after their arrival the Gaetz parents began to urge that a school be provided for the seven young children of the district, five from their own family and two McClelland children. Bob McClelland had married his brother's widow, and now kept a stopping house at Red Deer Crossing. In 1886 the agitation bore fruit, and led to the establishment of the first school between Calgary and Edmonton. It was known as "The Red Deer Central Protestant Public School District Number 104 of the North West Territories." 59

Because matters of land title were often a trial to Western settlers in the 1880's, a simple method of overcoming the difficulty was found by building the school on an unused road allowance. This location, half way between the Gaetz homestead and the Red Deer Crossing, took into account

58. R. L. Gaetz; Trading with the Stoneys

59. Government of Alberta; Economic Survey of the City of Red Deer p.2

the distribution of population. The building, which was of logs, stood on about the present site of the Cronquist house.⁶⁰ George Wilbert Smith, who later married the eldest daughter of the Gaetz family, was the first teacher, with Dr. Leonard Gaetz as chairman of the Board.

The 1886 building, which was erected by voluntary labor, was certainly not pretentious. One of the students who attended the Crossing School, as it was called, in 1890 left an account of her impressions of it. "The unpainted door, placed exactly in the middle of the front of the building, led into a dimly lighted oblong room, guiltless of paint, whitewash, polish or decoration. On either side were small, not too clean windows. Walls, ceiling and floor boasted the natural wood finish, fashionable in the West at that period. The space immediately in front of the door was occupied by a large, rusty box stove, whose pipes ran the length of the room, ascending to the roof at the far end. The chimney was, as usual, a tin stove pipe. For the teacher there was a small desk and a kitchen chair. To the right of the room as one entered were ranged about six homemade double desks, most uncomfortable."⁶¹ The Red Deer school was typical of those in Western Canada in 1886.

60. Mina Cole: The First Red Deer School

61. Mina Cole: Essay; Red Deer's First School
(Miss Cole attended in 1890)

After the coming of Dr. Gaetz to the district in 1884 there was no great influx of settlers. Sage Bannerman arrived at the Crossing in January, 1884, and the Reverend Isaac Gaetz came in 1885 and built the second house in what is now Red Deer City. John Halgren and John J. Gaetz came in 1885 and took up land.⁶² Mr. Gaetz's land is now part of the Provincial Training School premises, and Mr. Halgren's is four miles east on the "Coal Trail" to the mines on the Red Deer River. Travellers between Calgary and Edmonton always made the Crossing their stopping place, and Indians from a wide area came to trade there, but Dr. Gaetz, who was keenly interested in the prosperity of the place in which he had made his home felt that the government should be urged to establish a railway. From the standpoint of a general western development his work in this regard played no small part in the decision to build a line between Calgary and Edmonton. In 1886 he journeyed to Ottawa where he showed Sir John Carling, the Minister of Agriculture, samples of grain which he had grown on his farm. Oats, which weighed 53 pounds to the bushel, completely out-classed some Scotch oats which Dr. Saunders, director of experimental farms, had brought over as a standard for Canada.⁶³

62. Red Deer Advocate; Jubilee Edition, July 18, 1934

63. Red Deer Advocate; Jubilee Edition, July 18, 1934

When James Ross, William (afterwards Sir William) MacKenzie, and Daniel (later Sir Daniel) Mann came before parliament to secure aid in money and land for their proposed line through the heart of Alberta, they called Dr. Gaetz east to testify as to the value of the land. After hearing him a parliamentary committee decided that the land was potentially valuable for settlement, and that MacKenzie and Mann should be given assistance to enable them to build the Calgary-Edmonton line without further delay. ⁶⁴

The Department of Agriculture published and distributed Dr. Gaetz's evidence in the form of a thirty-five page booklet entitled "Six Years' Experience of a Farmer in the Red Deer District". The pamphlet bears the date Feb. 26, 1890, and no doubt was influential in dispelling the opinion that land in Northern Alberta, as it was then called, was worthless. Dr. Gaetz described weather and crop conditions at some length. He stated that he had been warned not to go to Alberta because it never rained there.⁶⁵ However, when he reached the location he had chosen, he wondered if the rain would ever stop, because it rained at

64. Red Deer Advocate; Jubilee Edition, July 18, 1934

65. Leonard Gaetz; Six Years' Experience as a Farmer in the Red Deer District.

short intervals from early June to August 17. Streams and sloughs were full to overflowing. Crops and gardens planted on that year's breaking did exceptionally well. The following winter, that of 1884-84, the time of the Rebellion, was very mild with little snow. He had seeded land in March, and a heavy snowfall gave abundant moisture for germination. The next winter was very severe, with snow lying on the ground until April. Although the summer of 1886 was drier than the preceding one, crops did well. The next two years were good growing years, although a severe frost on July 11, 1887 caught the barley when it was just heading out. The winter of 1888-89 was the mildest he had ever experienced, with no snow. This resulted in a lack of spring moisture, and the seed did not germinate. Rains finally did come that year at the first of July, but they were too late to produce good crops. The next winter 1889-90, Dr. Gaetz considered to be the coldest he had experienced in Alberta. He was confident, though, that the heavy snow would produce good crop conditions in the spring.

Dr. Gaetz's efforts, along with other factors, produced results, and in 1890 the first sod was turned on the Calgary-Edmonton Railway. Leonard Gaetz attended

the opening ceremonies, and indeed was one of the chief speakers.⁶⁶ The contractors pushed the grading forward rapidly, and by winter the work had reached the Red Deer River, where, during the cold months, men built a bridge. By June, 1891, steel had reached to Red Deer and the construction trains carried some freight and passengers as well as the loads of building materials.

It seemed certain that a townsite would be established at the point at which the railway crossed the Red Deer. In true Western fashion the inhabitants of the tiny hamlet at the Old Crossing dreamed of fortunes from the sale of building lots. The engineers had surveyed three possible routes, one at the ancient crossing, one at the Leonard Gaetz farm, and one downstream at the site of the Northey farms of to-day. The settlers were sure that the Old Crossing would be chosen, because it already had a nucleus of settlement, but the contractors permitted a "leak" of information that they actually favored the downstream route. A meeting was held with MacKenzie, Ross and Mann at Dr. Gaetz's house. Dr. Gaetz, his son, Halley, and his brother Isaac, offered the builders six hundred acres of land to cross at their holdings. This grant induced the contractors to put the station and the bridge in their present location.⁶⁷

66. R. L. Gaetz; The Great Adventure

67. Red Deer Advocate; July 18, 1934

In 1953 the only building at the Red Deer Crossing, the "Old Crossing" as it came to be called after the coming of the railway in 1891, is a restoration of Fort Normandeau. This old log building played a part in the Riel Rebellion of 1884-85, and, although no shots were ever fired at an enemy from it, it helped to maintain peace in the troublesome days of the Rebellion. Its very location indicated the fundamental importance of Red Deer in western development. It was and is in the centre of the developed part of Alberta, and the Red Deer River is a natural dividing line between the north and the south.

The basic causes of the rebellion were apparent to the early settlers before any actual outbreak occurred. The half-breeds foresaw the inevitable end of the life which they understood and the establishment of a new order which they did not understand if the trickles of white settlement became a flood. Economic distress added to their discontent. The feeling of unrest spread from the half-breeds to the tribes.

The settlers began to notice a change in the Indian attitude some months before violence occurred. In 1883 relations in the Red Deer region had been very good, the Indians helping the settlers to find strayed animals, and the settlers providing the natives with meals on frequent

occasions, but by April 1885 a large number of Indians had camped on the north bank of the river, opposite the tiny trading post, and their attitude had become distinctly menacing. Some of the more belligerent ones openly boasted that they would kill the settlers and appropriate their possessions. ⁶⁸ The more intelligent, though, realized that they could not win a war in which their only source of arms and ammunition would be their white enemies.

An example of the change in attitude occurred on the afternoon of April 11, 1885 when Mrs. Gaetz was terrified by the sight of a dozen horsemen, all decked in war paint, all chanting the war cry, and all shooting off their muzzle-loaders, approaching her farm home. The men of her family were all away engaged in breaking land. The Indians walked into the house without knocking and demanded food in a belligerent manner. Fortunately a large pot of beans was already cooking on the stove, and Mrs. Gaetz was able to serve the natives a meal of beans, bread, meat and tea. Etiquette and custom among the Indians demanded that they leave their weapons away from the table when eating, but on this occasion they kept them right at hand. However they made no attempt to molest Mrs. Gaetz and voiced no threats. After they had eaten they rode off quietly. ⁶⁹

68. Annie L. Gaetz; The Park Country, p. 20

69. R. L. Gaetz; oral statement

Late that day a rider from the north, his horse nearly dead from exhaustion, came to the trading post where the young Ray was alone. He was a government courier going south to Calgary. His duty was to warn any settlers that they should proceed to the southern town without delay. A few days previously the white settlers in the Red Deer region had discussed the matter of leaving Red Deer Crossing, but had decided to wait until the situation became clear. The courier's news and advice decided the matter for them and by noon of April 8th the Gaetz family, Emily Parry, George and Hatty Galloway, John Stewart, George Beatty and Bob McClelland, the total white population remaining in Central Alberta at that time, met at Red Deer Crossing to begin the trip south. They decided to leave in full daylight rather than to try to sneak away under cover of darkness. Their bold front was successful. Although a number of Indians gathered to watch the departure, no attempt was made to attack the whites. As the party travelled south to Calgary they passed through a land from which all settlers had fled. Elaborate precautions were maintained to guard against surprise. The only hostile act they encountered was one night when some half-breeds fired rifle shots in an unsuccessful attempt to stampede the horses. Although the

trip to Calgary normally took five days, the refugees did not spare their animals, and completed their journey in three days. By way of contrast even a slow train goes from Red Deer to Calgary in three hours, and automobile drivers cover the distance in about two hours. Emily Parry, later Mrs. T. A. Gaetz, was fifteen in 1885 when she made the trip to Calgary. She died in November 1953. The improvements in transportation in Alberta which she saw in her lifetime are almost beyond belief. In 1885 the population of the valley where she lived consisted of one family. In 1953 there were ten thousand people in the same area.

Although the men from Red Deer Crossing stayed at Calgary for only three days, the women and children remained there for several weeks. Before they returned to the Red Deer River the men obtained a supply of government ammunition to use to protect themselves if they should be attacked. After the rebellion the Gaetz boys tried these cartridges, and found them worthless. During the absence of the settlers from Red Deer Crossing half-breed scouts broke into the trading post to secure supplies for which the federal government afterwards paid Dr. Gaetz. Except for this trifling incident no property loss occurred in the wide area centring on the Red Deer Crossing.

On April 25th the First Division of the Alberta Field Force, with a train of one hundred and fifty-six wagons, reached the Red Deer and forded the river without incident, although the stream was rising rapidly.⁷⁰ Three days later the Second Division of the force, somewhat handicapped by a nine-pounder gun of which they were inordinately proud, could not make the crossing of the wide, swift-flowing and treacherous stream, as they described it. They hastily built a raft from logs which they found on the spot, and two men swam to the north bank, taking with them a long rope made by tieing picket lines together. By means of this raft the men crossed the stream. On the last trip the gun was the main part of the load. The rope broke and the raft drifted about three miles before it grounded on the north shore. In 1940, in a gravel pit which would be about five miles downstream from the Old Crossing workers found a four-pound cannon ball several feet from the surface. At first people accepted the theory that this was a shot lost in 1885. However, this explanation is not likely, because the shot is the wrong size and there is no record of the 1885 forces having any cannon other than their nine pounder. Military men

70. Annie L. Gaetz; The Park Country, p.27



RESTORATION OF FORT NORMANDEAU

Originally constructed in June, 1885.
The building had two storeys and was
protected by a moat and palisade.

have pointed out that in 1885 the artillery did not use solid shot. It is probably a relic of a still earlier era when fur traders mounted small brass cannon on some of their forts as at Rocky Mountain House.

The Mounted Police decided that the Red Deer Crossing was an excellent place to attempt to capture any possible fugitives who might seek to escape from Northern Alberta to the United States. Therefore, twelve members of the Mounted Police and twenty soldiers of the 65th Regiment from Montreal were stationed at Red Deer Crossing where the soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Normandeau built a fort. This building, which was named Fort Normandeau in honor of the young commanding officer, served to overawe any possible troublemakers in Central Alberta. The authorities also stationed at the fort twelve Mounted Police who were to conduct extensive patrols throughout Central Alberta.⁷¹

By the end of June the soldiers had finished building the fort, which stood about a quarter mile south and a

71. Annie L. Gaetz; op.cit. p.29
French names predominate in the muster roll of the soldiers at the fort: Lieutenant Normandeau, Sergeant C.Duchesny, Sergeant A. Demers, Sergeant A. Rideau, Corporal Jas. Gingre, Corporal J. Rivet, Corporal A. Levesque, Private E. Leclerc, Private A. Leblanc, Private N. Lamarche, Private C. Wilson, Private D. Francour, Private N. Simard, Private A. Rousseau, Private N. Desmarteau, Private J. Vigor, Private J. Traynor, Private M. Corrigan, Private N. Gervais.

quarter mile east of the actual fording place. In size the sod-roofed structure was twenty-eight feet by twenty-four feet, two storeys in height. The soldiers built an eight foot palisade around the fort, and also dug a moat eight feet deep and ten feet wide about the place. The ditch was kept filled with water from the river. Because of its position and strength the fort was considered by many to be potentially as important as Edmonton. It was, however, never tested in action. Shortly after they had completed the construction of the fort the soldiers left for Edmonton, but the police detachment remained at Fort Normandeau. In 1899 the fort building was moved to the Cornett homestead in the Waskasoo district, south of Red Deer. The palisade was destroyed by a prairie fire, and the moat was filled in by silt from the river.

The Old Timers, in 1934, held a rally in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the settlement. At that time the association decided to establish a permanent meeting place for the future. The Canadian Pacific Railway sold the group three acres of land at the site of the old Red Deer Crossing, and the Municipality of Pine Lake donated a similar amount. Tom Gaetz organized a group to move the remains of the old fort, by then badly dilapidated,

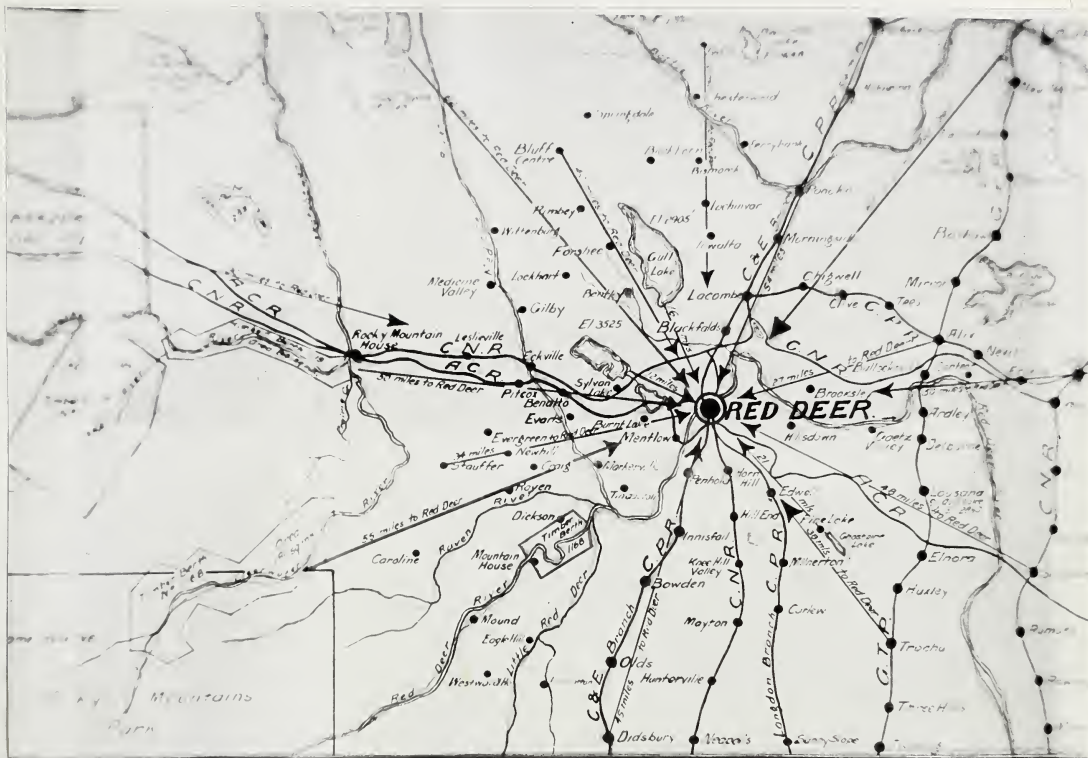
to the Old Timers' property.⁷² The task was done, and the old building restored as much as possible to its original appearance. In 1934 the Old Timers had the ancient Indian trail leading down to the Crossing made useable again. They placed the old fort very close to where the trail crosses the river. This trail, incidentally, is the oldest one still in use in Alberta.

The late James Dawson, who came to Red Deer in 1889 with the Mounted Police, had been in that service at the time of the Rebellion. His comment on life at Fort Normandeau is worthy of repetition. "We had a very quiet time of it--mostly little duties around the barracks, such as grooming the horses and keeping the equipment in order, just waiting for something to turn up. This was a law-abiding community because there was a good class of people here."⁷³ The Police actually remained at Red Deer Crossing for six years, until, with the coming of the railway, they shifted their station to the new hamlet in October 1891. For the fall term of 1892 the Crossing School took up quarters in the Burch store in the new settlement. Previously, the entire civilian population of the crossing, all eighteen of them, had moved to the new townsite.⁷⁴

72. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit. p.160

73. James Dawson; Oral statement

74. R. L. Gaetz; Early Red Deer



COAL FIELDS tributary to RED DEER
 TIMBER LIMITS .. RED DEER

RED DEER AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Board of Trade Map 1913

Chapter II

Economic Development of Red Deer and its Tributary Area

Red Deer is a very prosperous community. In 1953 purchases in the city's retail stores amounted to \$18,200,000, which was an increase of 20.4 per cent over sales for 1952. In Alberta as a whole the increase in the same period was only 7.4 per cent. In 1953 2,600 Red Deer families had a net disposable income after taxes of \$10,086,000 for an average of \$3,879, a substantial increase over the average of \$3,695 in the preceding year. With retail sales much larger than local income Red Deer must be the centre of a large trading area.¹ The tributary districts are one of the best mixed-farming regions of Western Canada, producing large amounts of wheat and coarse grains,² sheep, hogs and dairy products. To the west of Red Deer lie the lumber towns of Rocky Mountain House and Caroline, while to the east of the city are the ranching areas of Pine Lake. Coal is mined at Nordegg in the mountains and at Ardley on

1. Sales Management Survey, New York, 1953
(Reported in Red Deer Advocate, August 4, 1954)

2. Sales at Sims' Auction Market, 1953:

32,600 hogs; 8,305 cattle; 662 sheep.

The condensery operated by the Central Alberta Dairy Pool processes about thirty million pounds of milk in a year.

the banks of the Red Deer River. With regard to the province as a whole Red Deer's position midway between Calgary and Edmonton has made it a distributing centre of importance.

Red Deer's economy has developed with that of the province. In the first two decades of its existence, 1891 to 1911, the town grew rapidly, reflecting the great influx of settlers to the West. Then from the beginning of the First Great War until the beginning of the Second there was a period of consolidation, which resulted in a slowing down of the rate of growth in the town itself, although the rural area continued to develop fairly rapidly. Statistics tell the story.

	1901	1911	1921	1931
Red Deer	323	2,118	2,328	2,344
Alberta	73,000	374,000	588,000	732,000
Red Deer as Per Cent of Total	0.44	0.56	0.40	0.32

	1936	1941	1946	1951
Red Deer	2,389	2,924	4,042	7,575
Alberta	750,000	796,000	803,000	939,000
Red Deeras Per Cent of Total	0.32	0.37	0.50	0.81

In 1953 Red Deer had an estimated population of 10,000, which was one per cent of the population of Alberta.

An examination of the figures given in the table shows that the greatest increase, both in actual numbers and in relation to Alberta generally, has been since the Second Great War. The cause of this increase has been the realization by many firms of the advantages which Red Deer offers as a shopping centre and distributing point. Some of the newly established business concerns are the Chrysler Corporation, with a large warehouse just south of town, the Union Tractor plant, the Cadbury Chocolate Company's warehouse, the T. Eaton retail store, the F.W. Woolworth store and the Simpson-Sears mail-order office. In the period before 1914 many Red Deer business men hoped that industries would establish themselves in the town. To-day, with fifty thousand people in the immediate trading area, most business people feel that Red Deer has a prosperous future as a market town, but not as a manufacturing centre.

The oldest continuous business enterprise in Red Deer is the Springbett Blacksmith Shop, which William Springbett established in 1890 in the old log shack of Addison McPherson at Red Deer Crossing. In May, 1891 Mr. Springbett moved to the new townsite on the railway, establishing his business in a building which occupied the present-day site of the Imperial⁵ Bank. For fifty years Mr. Springbett served the needs

of a widespread community in Central Alberta. After the Second Great War a new residential area of the city, Springbett Drive, was named after this sturdy pioneer. In later years his son carried on the trade.

The first retail store within the city limits of Red Deer was a small ten by twelve log shack which an itinerant trader named Stevenson built in the summer of 1890 at the corner of Ross Street and Gaetz Avenue to serve the needs of the construction workers on the Calgary-Edmonton Railway. After the completion of the bridge across the Red Deer in the spring of 1891 he abandoned the shack and moved
6
elsewhere. Mention has already been made of the trading post at Red Deer Crossing.

In 1891 Raymond Gaetz opened a store in the new settlement, his premises occupying the site of the present-day Central Block. When that block was built the old store was moved just north of it to face Gaetz Avenue. In 1928 it was again moved, this time to the rear of the Corona Garage, where it was soon afterwards destroyed by fire. In the same year that Mr. Gaetz built his store John Burch came from Eastern Canada and started a similar business on the north-east corner of Gaetz Avenue and Ross Street. The west part of the Horsley Drug

6. Raymond Gaetz; Early Red Deer (The Red Deer Advocate, July 18, 1934)



THE SPRINGBETT BLACKSMITH SHOP

1891 - 1953

Built as the McBride Hardware
Store on the corner of Ross Street
and Gaetz Avenue.

Moved to 48 Street to make way
for the Royal Bank building

One of the first three commercial
buildings in Red Deer.

Store of to-day is actually the building which Burch built in 1891. Above the store was an extra room which in 1892 became the first school in the City of Red Deer. A third business place also opened in 1891 when Frank McBride, a young man from Ontario, built a hardware store just south of John Burch's premises. When the Royal Bank was constructed the old McBride building was moved to 48th Street, where it served as the Springbett Blacksmith Shop until it was demolished in 1954.⁷ The blacksmith shop and the two general stores constituted Red Deer's business section when the railway began to operate a regular train service in 1891.

A study of the photograph of the McBride building is of interest because this structure was typical of 1890 to 1911 construction in many Western towns. The width of the single-storey building, which had living quarters at the back, was only twenty-five feet. The false front, which gave a slight illusion of a second storey, seemed a laughable sham to many Eastern visitors, but in actuality it was the symbol of a dream. The flimsy, frame structure was all the owner could afford, but the false front was

7. Photograph (1953) on preceding page

a visible outline of what he hoped to have some day. From the architectural point of view it was ridiculous, but it was really intended to be a brave defiance of the future. Unfortunately for many of the pioneers the dream died in the bitter years.

In 1891 Red Deer was only a flag stop on the Calgary-Edmonton railway. The service consisted of one train per week, and even this was often more than an hour late. A box-car was placed beside the track to serve as a shelter for the occasional traveller who wanted to board the train at Red Deer. Then in 1893 the Canadian Pacific Railway Company built a station near the place where the freight sheds are to-day. After the completion of the station Philip Pidgeon, who took an active part in the Board of Trade and in municipal affairs, became the resident agent of the company. In 1910 the company built the present station. 8

In the spring of 1891 there were only three dwelling houses within the present city limits. The oldest of these had been built in 1886 by Isaac Gaetz, a brother of Dr. Leonard Gaetz. Isaac Gaetz homesteaded and pre-empted the north half of section seventeen, placing his buildings on a little knoll beside 9 Waskasoo Creek. In the 1920's the original logs were

8. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 117

9. Mina Cole (Pioneer of 1890); Report, October 28, 1953



THE LEONARD GAETZ HOME

Built in 1890.

Located at the original home site.

First house in Red Deer to be built of
sawn lumber.



House on Corner 48 th St. and 49 th Ave.
Originally the home of Mrs. Emma McLeod
One of the first three houses in Red Deer.
Original dwelling has been added to.



The Isaac Gaetz Memorial

One of the first memorials
in the cemetery.

Isaac Gaetz was a brother
of Dr. Leonard Gaetz.

covered with siding, giving the building the appearance of an ordinary frame structure. When plumbing was installed a real problem arose because of the solid¹⁰ walls. Similar difficulties have arisen in modernizing other pioneer buildings, which frequently give no indication of their original log construction except for an unusual thickness of the outer walls. The second house in Red Deer was built in 1890 by Dr. Leonard Gaetz, who used lumber from a small portable mill which he operated to make use of the abundant timber of the area. This house, which still stands at the southern approach to the traffic bridge on about the site of the original homestead buildings, was the first house between Calgary and Edmonton to be built¹¹ entirely of sawn lumber. Red Deer's third house, which still stands at the corner of 48th Street and 49th Avenue, was built in 1890 by Mrs. Emma McLeod, a sister of George Smith who was the first teacher in Central Alberta.

In 1891 the townsite was surveyed, with the main east and west thoroughfare, Ross Street, one¹² hundred feet in width. Unfortunately the surveyors made Gaetz Avenue, which is now part of Number Two

10. Elmer Mathews (owner); oral statement

11. Annie L. Gaetz; 6p. cit., p. 41

12. Government of Alberta; Economic Survey of the City of Red Deer, p. 3

Highway, the standard one chain in width, which has proved far too narrow for the volume of traffic which uses this street. Fortunately they did follow a symmetrical plan of straight streets and avenues intersecting at right angles, and they avoided any narrow, winding streets like those which came into existence in some Western towns. In 1891 many people felt that the width of Ross Street was nothing but a waste of good land.

The railway brought no great influx of people to the hamlet, which by the end of 1891 had a population¹³ of only fifty. A man named Carey came from Ontario and built the Alberta Hotel about where the Buffalo¹⁴ Hotel stands now. In a small shack near this hotel John Grant, who was a well-known resident for over thirty years, opened the first barber shop in Red Deer. Later Mr. Grant put up a brick building on the corner of Ross Street and 49th Avenue where he operated a taxidermist business. The fine buffalo head which hangs in the City Council chambers is an example of Mr. Grant's careful work. The animal, one of the last of the great herds, was killed on the banks of the Red Deer River near the Saskatchewan border in August, 1887. In 1940 Mr. Grant's building was moved

13. Government of Alberta; ibid., p. 4

14. Photograph of Red Deer, 1893

east of its original location, and became the Mounted Police barracks. In 1952 the ground floor was modified to become the Public Library.

In the same year that Mr. Grant opened his barber shop, 1891, Henry Reinholt, who had homesteaded near Burnt Lake, began to quarry stone on the south bank of the river near the Cronquist house of to-day. He obtained a good quality grey sandstone, which was soft at first but hardened rapidly on exposure to the air. Builders used the stone extensively for foundations, and even for whole buildings. The Anglican Church is one of the best examples of its use on a large scale. Mr. Reinholt found there was a large demand for the stone locally, and he also shipped carloads of the material to other places. By the time of the First Great War, however, stone was seldom used in building and the quarry ceased to operate.

In June, 1891, George Greene, a young lawyer who like so many other Red Deer pioneers had come from Ontario, settled in the town, where he built the first business block. His building, which was constructed of the local stone, still stands on the south-west corner of Ross Street and Gaetz Avenue.

Originally Mr. Greene used it for his own law offices and for a private bank which he established to serve the needs of the growing community until the Merchants Bank of Canada bought him out in 1902. Mr. Greene, who was Red Deer's first lawyer, in 1902 took W.E. Payne into a partnership which lasted until Mr. Greene became a judge at Medicine Hat in 1915. The legal firm then became Payne and Graham, and is now
16
Graham and Stewart.

In 1883 Red Deer became the postal address of the settlers in a very wide area when G.C. King built his trading post at the Crossing. There was a slot in the door for the mailing of letters, and
17
the mail was brought in by means of a Red River cart. After the railway reached Calgary the mail was brought north once every two weeks by stage coach. From the fall of 1884 until the completion of the Calgary-Edmonton railway line in 1891 Raymond Gaetz operated the post office at Red Deer Crossing. His brother, H.H. Gaetz succeeded him when the settlement moved to its present location. The new post office was in the H.H. Gaetz drug store, which stood on the west side of Gaetz Avenue, just north of Ross Street. Within a

16. P.E. Graham; oral statement

17. The Red Deer Advocate, August 15, 1951

short time Mr. Gaetz moved the drug store and post office to the building which is now the Morris store on the south side of Ross Street, a few doors east of the railway station. In 1902, when the Gaetz Cornett block on the corner of Gaetz Avenue and Mann Street was built, the post office was established in the south half of that building, while the north half¹⁸ became the drug store. This arrangement lasted until 1911 when Harry Wallace succeeded H.H. Gaetz as postmaster. The post office then was moved to the News building on the corner of 48th Street and Gaetz Avenue, where it shared quarters with the Red Deer News, one of the two local weeklies. For the convenience of the public boxes with combination locks were installed in the lobby, and these could be rented for a small annual fee. Even at that date the volume of mail was so small that it could be wheeled to the railway station in a hand cart. After eight years of service Mr. Wallace resigned, Thomas Edis succeeding him as postmaster. Until 1947 the Dominion government let a contract for the Red Deer post office, with the result that the employees were not civil servants but employees of Mr. Edis, who was always successful in obtaining the contract.

By 1922 the need for a Dominion Lands Office in Red Deer was over, and the post office was moved to the former lands office building, which occupied the site of the present Federal Building. For many years a large, crumbling excavation had existed just east of the Lands Office, and this had been the beginning of what was to be a fine new post office, offered as election bait in 1911. The building, however, was never constructed, and the excavation served merely as an excellent dwelling site for cliff swallows and a wonderful place for small boys to play soldier. In 1922 the Dominion government had the hole filled.

Although the facilities in the renovated Lands Office were an improvement on the News Block, they soon became grossly inadequate, especially at Christmas, when bags of mail often had to be piled outside the building. Congestion in the lobby was bad until a house-to-house delivery service was started in November, 1949. In 1950 the government let contracts for the construction of a fine Federal Building to house the Post Office, the Customs Office, the Unemployment Insurance Office and the Mounted Police Office. As if to make up for past neglect, the authorities spared no expense, erecting a fine structure of the most

modern design. In this building, which is the seventh Red Deer post office, Mr. George Horn is postmaster, with a staff of thirty employees. The economic progress of seventy years is symbolized in the transformation of the post office from a log shack to an air-conditioned¹⁹ building of steel and tile.

After the hamlet of Red Deer had been in existence for one year, William Piper, a settler from Ontario, started a brickyard, which was the town's first manufacturing industry. His plant turned out a good quality product, although the Red Deer brick rather lacked color. Settlers in need of cash were often able to find employment in the brickyard, which by 1914 could produce up to fifty thousand bricks per day, and²⁰ employed about sixty men. Because so many buildings were constructed of brick, Red Deer and district came to resemble many regions in the older parts of Ontario. The Red Deer plant, however, with wood and coal for fuel, could not compete successfully with the gas-fired yards at Medicine Hat. At the end of the First Great War the Piper brickyard closed. "Piper's Mountain", a high, steep hill in south Red Deer serves to recall this early industry.

In 1892 the Mission Board of the Methodist Church

19. The Red Deer Advocate, August 15, 1951

20. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 116

began construction of a large Indian Industrial School on the north bank of the river, just across from the original site of Red Deer. The main building was very substantially constructed of stone from the Reinholt quarry.²¹ Barns and houses were also built. The school, which had four hundred acres of land, provided accommodation for one hundred and fifty Indian children. The eight members of the staff were appointed by the Mission Board, but were paid by the government of Canada. Miss Mary Linton, later Mrs. Raymond Gaetz, came to the school as governess for the children of the first principal, the Reverend Thomas Nelson.

The purpose of the school was to try to ease the period of transition for the Indians by giving the children enough training to enable them to take a part in the new era that was rapidly coming. The boys received training in farm work, blacksmithing and carpentry, as well as rudimentary academic schooling, while the girls had courses in domestic science. It is doubtful, however, that the pupils were able to practise many of the things which they learned in the school when they returned to their people. The Industrial School ceased to function at the beginning

21. Government of Alberta; op. cit., p. 4

of the First Great War.

For some years no use could be found for the buildings. Then in 1919 the Soldier Settlement Board bought the school from the Methodist Church for the purpose of developing a training farm for prospective soldier settlers. It was used for this work for only one year, and then remained closed until 1922 when fourteen Hebridean families were brought to the Red Deer district through the efforts of Father Macdonald, the parish priest. The old school became a reception centre and training farm for these Scottish settlers. No more Hebrideans were brought to the area and after the first group had left the school the farm land was sold to private individuals. To-day the great stone walls of the main building still stand, but the roof is gone and the interior is a complete wreck. The barns and houses which once stood about the main school have all been torn down or moved away. Visitors to the district often ask about the great grey hulk of the building, which stands over half a mile from the nearest public road. Like the little log fort which stands just opposite it on the other bank of the river, it is to-day a symbol of a nearly forgotten era.

The project of training Hebridean immigrants in

Alberta farming methods was similar to an earlier undertaking of the Reverend Dr. Fry, headmaster of a boys' school in England. Some of his former pupils who had emigrated to Canada wrote to him about their difficulties in adjusting^{themselves} to Canadian farming practices. Therefore, in 1903 he established in the Springvale district about five miles east of Red Deer a school which he called Berkhamstead Farm for the purpose of teaching British boys the methods used in farming in the West. A competent, experienced farmer was placed in charge, but the school did not prove popular, mainly because the young immigrants preferred to secure their practical experience by working for some farmer for wages. In 1909 Mr. J.E. Eversole took control of the Berkhamstead place, which he operated from then on as a straight farming venture. Two men who took training at Berkhamstead Farm later became prominent in Canadian military affairs. They are Major General Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O and Bar, and Major General Lionel Page, D.S.O. and Bar.

A still earlier venture in group migration occurred in 1888 when a party of fifty Icelanders left Pembina County in North Dakota in search of better land in Canada. They decided to settle along

the Medicine River, about fifteen miles west of Penhold. One of the leading men of the settlement was S.G. Stephanson, the famous Icelandic poet, who took an active part in community welfare by helping to organize a school district, to establish a post office, and to secure roads and bridges. In 1950 a cairn was dedicated to the memory of this poet-farmer.

These pioneers experienced real hardship with the nearest railway ninety miles away at Calgary, and sixteen miles away even after the Calgary-Edmonton line was built. Their land was fertile, and they worked hard. They were believers in co-operatives. In 1898 Mr. J. Benedictson started a small store and cheese factory, which a co-operative association of thirty-five farmers bought out in the following year. The Dominion government was operating creameries at the time, and in 1899 they sent Daniel Morkeberg, a Dane, to the Icelandic settlement of Markerville to take charge of a creamery there. Dairying has been one of the most important industries of the district ever since. Many of the original settlers or their sons and daughters are still in the district, which is the best possible proof²³ that the original selection of land was good.

23. First Markerville Settlers: S. J. Bjornson; O. Olafson; B. Olafson; E. Jonasson; S. Arnson; B. Jonson; J. Hunford; B. J. Bardal; G. Dalman; G. Thorlakson; J. Gudmunson; J. Bjornson; E. Helgason; J. Einarson

The village of Penhold, about eight miles south of Red Deer, is the centre of a very prosperous agricultural region. When the Calgary-Edmonton railway was built Penhold was known only as the "Seventh Siding". George Fleming, upon whose homestead the village was built, wanted to have it named Essexville in honor of the Ontario county from which he had come, but his suggestion was not approved. The name "Penhold" supposedly came from a railway official who jabbed a pen into a piece of paper and said, "Let it be called Penhold."

The settlement of the district came just about the same time as the settlement of Red Deer. Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart of London, Ontario, the first settlers, came to the West because they had heard the glowing accounts which Dr. Gaetz gave of the Red Deer country. The Stewarts actually settled on their homestead and pre-emption, six miles south of Red Deer Crossing, only a few weeks after the Gaetz family had taken up their lands. The same four men who had assisted Dr. Gaetz to build his house also constructed a log dwelling for the Stewarts. This spirit of helpfulness was an important factor in influencing settlers to stay on even when conditions became very discouraging. For twenty years the Stewarts remained on their

homestead, but after the death of John Stewart his sons moved to the village of Penhold where they went into business. They also opened a branch in Red Deer, and the Stewart Lumber Company has become a very important enterprise in that town.

Because it was closer to Calgary the Penhold district before 1890 attracted more settlers than did the Red Deer region. Experienced farmers, many of whom came from Ontario, soon had a fair amount of land under cultivation, even though the sowing had to be done by hand, the grain cut by a scythe, and the threshing done by a flail or by horse-tread. One of the early settlers was Alfred Speakman, a lay minister of the Methodist Church, who settled in the Horn Hill district east of Penhold. An educated man, Mr. Speakman, who from the first was very interested in the farmers' movement, drafted the constitution for the first United Farmers' Association of Alberta. He also served as president of the association. His son Alfred, who was a member of the Progressive party and the United Farmers of Alberta, represented the Red Deer constituency at Ottawa from 1924 until 1935.²⁴

In 1940 the economy of Penhold benefitted from the establishment of an Air Force station just northwest of the village. At first this unit was Number 2A

24. See Chapter III

Manning Depot, R.C.A.F., but in August, 1941 it became Number Thirty-Six Service Flying Training School. In July, 1953, after having been closed for eight years, Penhold was reactivated as a training station under the new expansion program for Canadian defence in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.²⁵ Although certain businesses have gained considerably through providing for the needs of the Air Force personnel, the real basis of Penhold's prosperity is still the fertile agricultural region which lies around the village.

About seven miles north of Red Deer lies the village of Blackfalds. The Blindman valley, with an abundance of feed and shelter for cattle, first attracted settlers to the region. Before the early ranchers arrived there was a stopping house near where the old Number Two Highway crosses the Blindman. From this point trails branched off to Rocky Mountain House to the west and to Buffalo Lake to the east.

The first white man to settle in the district was A.D. Gregson, who in 1889 chose an attractive homestead near the junction of the Blindman with the Red Deer. Mr. Gregson, who was soon joined by his

brother Percy, chose the spot as much for its advantages as a hunting and fishing region as for its farming possibilities. He built a house of split field stone, and dug it into the side of a hill in an attempt to insulate it against the severe Alberta winters. Because of this unusual construction the house, which is still in use, attracts considerable attention.

Another early settler of the district was Walter Waghorn, who kept the first post office in his ranch house near the river, later moving the office to a small building on the site of the present village. The post office was first called Waghorn, but in 1892 it was changed to correspond in name with the Blackfalds siding. The settlers of the region soon demanded a school, and in 1893 Blindman School, which was Number 255 of the North-West Territories, was opened. The late Senator Talbot of Lacombe was at one time the teacher of this school.

In the rainy years which began in 1897 the rolling surface of the Blackfalds country kept it from becoming the waste of mud and water which covered much of the rest of Central Alberta. As a result there was a great influx of settlers to the district, including many young Englishmen who liked the idea of ranching

rather than farming. By 1900 all the available land was occupied and a demand arose for better trading facilities. A village was planned for the siding. John McKay opened the first general store, while William Spurel built an hotel. Other business men came to Blackfalds which soon had three lumber yards, three livery barns, several general stores, a number of implement dealers, and a few professional men. Blackfalds actually had a dentist before there²⁶ was one in Red Deer. By 1914 Red Deer had grown large enough to attract much of the farm trade away from Blackfalds, and this tendency of people to do their shopping in a larger centre has become more marked with the improved highways of the present day.

Grain growing and mixed farming have replaced ranching in the Blackfalds district, although there are still many fine herds of cattle in the area. Sheep raising has become common, and dairying has increased greatly, most of the milk being shipped to the Condensery in Red Deer.

The nearest town west of Red Deer is Sylvan Lake, a well known summer resort. Until 1903 this lake was called Snake Lake because so many garter

snakes were found along its shores. Because the land around the lake was heavily timbered and rather inaccessible, settlement did not begin until 1899 when Alexander Loiselle and his son, Louis, came from Michigan. They had brought a sawmill with them and decided to settle at Snake Lake because so much timber was available there. The father chose a homestead within the limits of the present town, while the son selected land west and north at Third Point. They placed their mill near the outlet of the creek which joins Sylvan Lake to Burnt Lake. This stream, which is practically dry now, in those days carried sufficient water to enable them to float rafts of logs between the lakes. By 1902 other settlers had come to the district and Alexander Loiselle built an hotel to accommodate people coming to the region. He also started a store. Much of his business was with freighters who followed a trail which just skirted the south end of Sylvan Lake. As the whole region as far west as Rocky Mountain House was supplied by this route, the volume of traffic was considerable. In 1903 Sylvan Lake became a post office, with Alexander Loiselle as postmaster.

The development of a summer resort began as early as 1901 when two families from Red Deer

camped at the lake. In 1904 three summer cottages were built, the first of nearly one thousand summer places that are there now. The farm population of the area grew slowly because railway facilities were lacking until the Alberta Central Railway was built from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House in the years from 1910 to 1914. Many of the people who came to the region were from Finland and the other Baltic provinces of Russia. These settlers often obtained some cash to meet their living expenses by working in the lumber camps of the Rocky Mountain House country during the winter, while during the rest of the year they did the heavy work of clearing and breaking their fields.

Because the surrounding district developed slowly, for many years the village of Sylvan Lake showed little growth in population, which as late as 1923 comprised only 185 permanent residents. The depression years, oddly enough, had the effect of increasing the tourist trade in the village, mainly because large numbers of people felt that they could spend a holiday there at less cost than in more pretentious resorts. By 1934 the permanent

population had increased to seven hundred, with about four thousand people living at the resort during July and August. Hotels, rooming houses, dance halls and other places of amusement were built. Business declined during the Second Great War, but after that conflict was over the agricultural community around the lake began to enjoy considerable prosperity. New land, cleared by large brush-cutting machines, produced heavy crops of grain. The resident population of the town of Sylvan Lake is about twelve hundred at the present time (1954).

East of Red Deer lies Pine Lake, which is the centre of a district in which ranching has been the most important industry. The soil is sandy and the surface is rough and broken, with many sloughs. An elderly woman aptly described the region by saying that it was "as hilly as a pan of buns". The advantages of shelter, abundant water and plenty of slough grass for hay have made the region excellent ranching territory. The natural beauty of the district appealed to English settlers in particular. Of these people Robert Page, who started a cattle ranch in 1892, was the first. Within a year Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Herbert and Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Lawrence also secured land at Pine Lake, while B. P. Alford opened a small

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store near the north end of the lake. In the succeeding years there was a slow, steady growth as other settlers, mainly from England, came to the district. In 1910 a survey was made for a railway from Red Deer to Moose Jaw, and for a time it seemed that Mr. Alford's little store might be the beginning of a town, but the line was never constructed, and no village developed at Pine Lake. In 1946 the provincial government built a gravel highway from Penhold to Lousana, and this improved road has caused a considerable increase in the tourist business done by a number of small resorts along the shores of the lake. There is, however, no public beach or park. In spite of the increase in the tourist trade and the oil development which has occurred in recent years, the prosperity of the Pine Lake community is basically founded on cattle ranching.

A brief account of the Lawrence family may be given as an example of the experiences of settlers in the region. In 1893 Henry Frank Lawrence, a man of considerable education who contributed occasionally to the Toronto Saturday Night, chose a homestead on the shores of the lake. An artist of some ability, he found subjects for his paintings in the rugged country

about his home. Although Mr. Lawrence had some difficulty in adjusting^{himself} to his new environment, his sons, born and raised in the West, became successful farmers and ranchers. Although their holdings were scattered through a wide area, they worked them as a unit. They made excellent use of the natural resources of the country, for example, sawing the scrub poplar of the region into four-by-four timbers which they used for corrals and barns at a time when other ranchers were spending large sums for commercial lumber.²⁸ Their material progress was not spectacular, but it was steady, and by 1950 their joint holdings of land and cattle were worth a large amount of money. As time went on some of the sons and grandsons left the district to engage in business or the professions, in a sense completing the cycle which began with an English immigrant sixty years earlier.

If Pine Lake is taken as an example of a ranching area, Balmoral on the eastern outskirts of Red Deer may be considered as a typical mixed-farming community. The first two settlers were the half-breeds, McKenzie and Wishart, who operated a sawmill on what is now the Northey property.

28. Edgar Wood; oral statement

Wishart also squatted on a piece of unsurveyed land which is to-day the Provincial Training School farm. In 1885 John Gaetz and his mother, the first white settlers in Balmoral, bought out the Wishart claim to the land which John Gaetz occupied for the next fifty years.²⁹ By 1891 three other men, Robert McDuffy, William Jenkins and Charles Cruikshank, had started to clear and break land in the district. In 1894 the Balmoral School District, Number 292, was organized, the name being chosen by Mrs. C.M. Gaetz in honor of a family who had just come from Scotland. A brick schoolhouse, without any basement, was built, but for two years there were no students to use it.³⁰ When the school did open, Miss Mina Cole was the teacher. In 1911 the original building was replaced by a well-constructed brick structure with a proper foundation and a full-sized basement. For some years this building was considered to be the finest rural school in the Red Deer Inspectorate. The economic changes in the district were reflected in the school enrolment. At first there were few pupils because the families were chiefly young couples.

29. Mrs. J.J. Gaetz; oral statement

30. H.J. Mott, Secretary Balmoral S.D.; oral statement

They cleared their land and prospered, and by the 1920's the registers showed enrolments of forty, with some families having three or four children in the school, which only went as high as the eighth grade. Very few pupils went on to high school. Most of the boys and girls either worked on the home farm or found employment with a neighbor. By the 1930's the school enrolment began to decline as the introduction of power machinery resulted in larger farms of a section or more. By 1953 there were so few children in the district that the school was closed. Eight or nine pupils come from Balmoral to Red Deer by bus.

The soil of the district is a deep, black loam, producing up to forty bushels of wheat to the acre in an average year. Originally this land was covered with a heavy growth of poplar and willow, which in pioneer times had to be cleared by hand. The growth was often so dense that one acre would yield twenty cords of firewood, with only the aspen poplar being used. Because so much labor was involved, five acres represented a good year's work by a homesteader in clearing and breaking land. It was no accident that Mr. Frank Van Slyke of Balmoral invented a good breaking plough; the need for such an implement was very great. Once it was broken the land was excellent

for mixed farming, as the following letter, written in 1912, testifies.

"I came to this district from Carleton, Ontario twelve years ago, and have since farmed two hundred and forty acres three miles from Red Deer.

"I have carried on mixed farming and have kept a few cattle and have gone in more for hogs the last few years. I have fed hogs on oats and barley and have made one dollar a bushel for my barley by feeding it. There has been big money in hogs.

"I have grown wheat, and it is a successful crop as a rule. The smallest yield I have had from it is thirty bushels per acre, and I have grown as high as sixty bushels to the acre.... My oats have averaged at least sixty bushels to the acre every year, and I have taken one hundred bushels of oats to the acre.

"I have never missed a crop since I have been here - twelve years. I like the climate very much. We sometimes have it very cold in winter, but we have very few bad storms at any time of the year."³¹

To-day in Balmoral there is a greater tendency to engage in grain farming than there was in 1912. Dairying has become important, but many farmers have not kept sufficient pasture for extensive herds. Some

fields have been under cultivation for sixty years and there are signs that the fertility has been depleted. Substantial brick houses, many built fifty years ago, are still in use. In brief, Balmoral is a good example of a mature farming community in Central Alberta.

In selecting land in any of the districts around Red Deer an early settler was well advised to pay attention to the kinds of trees growing on it. Large willows indicated a deep black soil, poplars a thinner layer of black dirt, or even a straight clay soil, and spruce or pine that the land was not
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very good for farming. An inexperienced person attempted to cut the tough willow shrubs above the ground, and as a result made very slow progress and received many stinging cuts from the tough, limber shoots. A better technique was to cut the willow clumps just below the surface of the ground, where the branches came together and the root offered firm resistance to the axe. Even under the best conditions it was hard, back-breaking work, and few people had the vitality displayed by one Swedish immigrant, who at the end of a twelve or fourteen hour day could still joke about the slogan which had brought him to Alberta: "Come to America and grow rich."

The poplars varied in size from small ones which could easily be uprooted by a single team to large trees which left stumps that required the use of blasting powder. After the settler had cut the brush and trees he had to pile the material into huge heaps for burning, which was hot and dirty work because the ends had to be thrown into each fire after the bulk of each pile had burned. Frequently the pioneer "corded" the white poplar by cutting it into four-foot lengths, and then splitting and piling it. This wood was generally sold by the rick, which was a measure of thirty-two square feet on the face of the pile. A rick of four-foot wood was one hundred and twenty-eight cubic feet, while a rick of stove-length, sixteen inch blocks³⁴ was only one-third as much. Newcomers to the region were often puzzled by the term which was almost always used in preference to "cord" when speaking of firewood. In 1912 an English syndicate sent a man to Red Deer to investigate the possibility of a pulp mill which would use the great quantities of logs which the settlers were burning to get them out of the way. His report was that the supply was too

34. H. J. Mott (early settler); oral statement



RED DEER IN 1910

Western General Electric Light Company's
Powerhouse in the Foreground

(Note the cordwood used for fuel)

uncertain to justify a large investment , and, therefore, the project was never attempted. One steady market for firewood was the Western General Electric Company which for many years used great quantities of cordwood in their power-generating plant.³⁵ Householders often bought pole wood for about two dollars a load. The customer then had the logs cut into stove lengths by one of the numerous power-saw outfits which toured the towns and rural districts. The clear, ringing sound made by these saws could be heard in almost any Alberta town on a winter's day

After the trees and brush had been burned the land was broken by a heavy plow drawn by four, six, or even eight horses. Before 1900 oxen were frequently used, and after 1920 tractors replaced horses on most breaking jobs. The settler's next task was to gather the roots into large piles along the edges of the field. "Backsetting", that is, turning the sod over again, exposed many more roots. The grub-hoe, a heavy iron tool like a combination pick and axe, was a useful implement in getting out the roots. The Van Slyke breaking plow, invented in 1910, was manufactured for two years in a small factory in Red Deer. Mr. Van Slyke then sold the patent to the Maple Leaf Milling Company,

35. See Board of Trade Photograph , 1910

who closed the Red Deer factory, but continued to³⁶
manufacture the plow elsewhere for a few years.

By the end of the First Great War it had been
superseded by newer models.

By the time of the Second Great War most
breaking in the Red Deer area was done by large
outfits at a contract rate per acre. The clearing of
land is now done so easily that conservationists
are seriously worried about the future. "By the time
another generation of farmers have done their work
I am afraid that there will be little of the native
growth left to shelter the fields and to provide
nesting places for the birds. Then the country will
suffer!"³⁷ Many people agree with this view which was
expressed by a lady who has lived in Central Alberta
since 1890.

The first settlers had only flails and scythes
with which to harvest their crops until 1891 when
the coming of the railway made implements of a better
kind available. Mowing machines and reapers became
common, and in 1893 John Stewart and Elias Code
purchased steam-powered threshing machines. However it
was not until 1898 that any large quantity of grain³⁸
was shipped from Red Deer.

36. R. A. Van Slyke; oral statement

37. Mina Cole; Address to Teachers' Convention

38. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 160

In the 1890's a few primitive trails radiated from Red Deer, but travel, especially in summer, was very difficult. As late as 1898 Mr. Ed Whiteside, a pioneer of the region south-east of Stettler, built a scow to float a load of groceries down the Red Deer River rather than to attempt to haul them by wagon over the terrible roads.³⁹ It is true that 1898 was an exceptionally wet year in Central Alberta, but even in normal years it took him five days to drive a few cattle to market in Red Deer over a route which he may now cover in only a few hours by truck.

In 1893 travel between Calgary and Edmonton was helped a great deal by the opening of a traffic bridge across the river at Red Deer.⁴⁰ Unfortunately heavy floods so damaged this structure in the spring of 1899 that it could no longer be used, and permission had to be obtained from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to cover the deck of their bridge with planks in order that it might be available for public use. Construction of a new steel bridge of two spans was completed early in 1901, but this bridge was swept away by ice that same spring. One of the spans was salvaged and is still in use across the Blindman River on the old Edmonton trail. From 1901 until 1903, when a

39. The Stettler Independent; December, 1953

40. Government of Alberta; op. cit., p. 2

new bridge was completed, travellers had to cross the river at the old Red Deer Crossing, at a ford near the bridge, or at McKenzie Crossing, three miles downstream from the town. After two people had been drowned in fording the stream the government installed a ferry at the McKenzie place. The bridge built in 1903 proved to be much more substantial than the two earlier ones and it lasted until 1947 when the provincial government replaced it by a much wider structure to accommodate the large volume of traffic using Number Two Highway. Because this bridge serves the province as a whole, Red Deer City Council has felt for some time that the province should accept responsibility for maintaining the approaches to it. In 1954 the provincial highways minister accepted their argument and stated that the government will give assistance to the city in improving and maintaining all of Gaetz Avenue as part of the highway.

In early years the expedient of the "corduroy" road was often used in Central Alberta. This was made by laying a foundation of logs and brush across the trail. Earth was sometimes placed on top of the brush, but often the weight of the traffic pushed the logs into the soft ground. As the road settled more earth

and more brush were added. Even as late as 1925 a car in wet weather would often cut down to the old corduroy on the Sylvan Lake road. The first high grade on this Number Eleven Highway was made by power machinery in 1928. In the 1930's it was gradually widened and improved, and in 1953 a paved surface was put on it. An old timer stated that in 1911 he made a trip from his homestead near Alhambra to Red Deer. He travelled in an ox-drawn wagon, and the roads were so poor that Sylvan Lake was in sight for three days.⁴¹ He now makes the journey in about thirty minutes.

During the winters the heavy snows of Central Alberta closed the roads to all automobile traffic. In 1916 the Board of Trade considered the possibility of having sleigh runners set the same width apart as the wheels of a car in order that automobiles could drive along the hard-packed strips of snow formed by the passage of the sleighs. The scheme was an ingenious one, but nothing came of it.⁴² During the 1940's the municipal authorities began a program of raising grades in order to keep the roads clear of snow. They have also purchased plows to keep the roads open during the winter. Twelve years ago almost every farmer in the district kept some kind of

41. John Kerr; oral statement

42. Red Deer Board of Trade; Minute Book

horse-drawn equipment for use in winter, but in 1954 nearly all the rural families depend on using cars or trucks during the whole year. This has had a decided effect on the economy of the region. Farmers from a very wide area come to Red Deer to shop during the winter instead of going to their smaller local centres as they did when transportation means were slower. Because more things go wrong with cars when they are operated in severe weather, garages now have their busiest season in the winter. By contrast in 1925 one garage owner did not have the main doors of his building open for nearly four⁴³ months.

As in the rest of the province, title to much of the land in the Red Deer area was originally acquired from the Crown under homestead rights. All surveyed, even-numbered sections, which had not been otherwise disposed of, were available for homestead entry. Any person who was the sole head of a family, or any male who was at least eighteen, could secure possession of a quarter section on payment of a fee of ten dollars. By proving exclusive use for three years, by residence for at least six months in each year, and by cultivation of an amount laid down in the regulations, the homesteader secured title to

43. George Ely; oral statement

his land. By living on the place for twelve months, and by cultivating at least thirty acres, the settler could secure his title more quickly. He might also purchase an adjoining quarter-section, known as his pre-emption, at three dollars an acre, one-fourth⁴⁴ payable in cash. The government of the Territories appointed land guides to assist prospective settlers in securing suitable homesteads and in securing the proper legal description of the parcel chosen. Robert McClelland, one of the first settlers at Red Deer Crossing, was a land guide for this area.

Early settlers, especially those with families, almost always wanted to know if there was a doctor in the district. Before 1892 when Dr. J. H. Hicks came to the hamlet, Red Deer, although the service⁴⁵ centre for a wide area, had no physician. Six years later Dr. H. J. Denovan opened a practice in the town, remaining for five years and then selling his business to Dr. Richard Parsons, a young man who wanted to establish himself in a Western community. For the next forty-one years Dr. Parsons gave devoted service to the residents of Central Alberta. To-day his sons carry on the practice under the name of the Parsons Clinic. The development of this medical practice

44. Homestead Regulations - Summarized by
by Sir John Bourinot; How Canada Is Governed,
Copp Clark Company, Toronto, 1918, p. 303

45. Red Deer Advocate; July 18, 1934

is unique in that it has remained under the control of one family for over half a century, but in other ways its development has been typical of Western Canada. At first the doctor had to travel by horse and buggy over primitive bush trails in order to bring aid to his patients. When an ambulance was needed the seats in a democrat were replaced by a cot. Sometimes his operating theatre was the kitchen table of a farmhouse, with only a candle or a feeble oil lamp to give him light. He was on call twenty-four hours a day, and often had to take his fee in wood, meat or dairy products. In the modern clinic the doctors keep the office hours of any other business man, they have a large, well-equipped hospital for their patients, and even emergency cases are generally brought to them by ambulance.

Other doctors who played a part in the life of early Red Deer were John Collison and his partner Charles Saunders. In 1904 these young men began to practise in the town, establishing their offices in a dwelling house which still stands directly south of the post office, although business firms now have built all around this old residence. Dr. Collison, a former teacher who had turned to the study of medicine, had just completed his course at McGill

University, while Dr. Saunders had just returned to Canada after serving in the South African War. Until they sold out their practice in 1927 these two men served faithfully the people of an area extending from Pine Lake on the east to Rocky Mountain House on the west.

Two men, noted more for their interest in public affairs than for their practice of medicine, were Dr. C.C. Grant, who came to Red Deer in 1900, and Dr. Michael Clark, the noted parliamentarian.⁴⁶ Dr. Grant did serve the needs of many patients in the seventeen years he remained in Central Alberta, but his main interest lay in expressing the very definite views which he held on all public questions. The files of the local newspapers contain numerous letters from him, and even after he had left Red Deer he continued to publish in strong language his ideas on many topics.

In 1954 there are fourteen physicians in Red Deer, eight of them in the Parsons Clinic, and five in the Associate Clinic which was formed by Dr. Bunn who bought out the Collison and Saunders practice. Dr. David Grant, who is not related to the earlier man of the same name, maintains an independent practice. The almost fanatical trust which the pioneers had in their family doctor has now been replaced by a much

46. See Chapter III.

more impersonal relationship in the clinics. This change is not peculiar to Red Deer, but is typical of the developing West.

The business men of the 1890's were very anxious to have a newspaper in their little community. They felt that this was almost an essential service, and that it would greatly enhance the economic status of their settlement. Therefore in 1894 the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company started the Red Deer Review, whose primary purpose was to advertise the lands which the company had for sale. The paper was actually published in Eastern Canada, and distributed locally by the Board of Trade. In 1901 two men from Ontario, O. and G. Fleming, began publication of a paper, but their work did not satisfy the business men, who criticized it with much severity. In 1904 the Flemings sold ⁴⁷ The Echo, as they called their paper, to a group of local men, who then began to publish a weekly which they called The Alberta Advocate. John Cowell, who later became Clerk of the Alberta Legislative Assembly, was editor and part owner. Edward Michener, a real estate man, and John T. Moore, head of the Western General

47. The Red Deer Board of Trade, Minute Book

Electric Light Company, also had shares in the
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paper. Then in 1906 Francis Galbraith, who had come to the West because his wife was threatened with tuberculosis, purchased the newspaper, which he named The Red Deer Advocate. The Advocate of 1906, a patent-inside paper, had a circulation of about six hundred. The patent-inside meant that the bulk of the paper, which consisted of syndicated material and advertisements, had been printed elsewhere. The local men printed only the outside of the front and back pages. This method was widely used in Alberta in early times and is still used in some small towns. Even as it was publication was very uncertain. Mr. Galbraith describes it: "The paper was supposed to be issued on Friday morning, but in the past more than half the copies came out on Monday."

Mr. Galbraith's first editorial laid down the policy which he followed for more than a quarter of a century. "In taking over The Advocate the new proprietor trusts that the relationships between himself and the readers of the paper may be long and pleasant. He will aim, so far as in him lies, to promote the peace, welfare and prosperity of the

48. F.W. Galbraith; Fifty Years of Newspaper Work, Advocate Press, Red Deer, March, 1934

people of the district and town of Red Deer. If he has any special convictions as to the relationships of the members of the community, they are that the progress of this district and town can only be secured by united effort and mutual confidence, and that no one should get return for which he does not give value." ⁴⁹ When Francis Galbraith died in 1934 most people felt that he himself had lived up well to the ideals which he had expressed in the first issue of his paper. His son Phillip succeeded him as editor. In the early years the Advocate often labored under economic difficulties, but in 1928 when the T. Eaton Company, the first large retail concern to establish itself in Red Deer, bought out the W. E. Lord Department Store advertising revenues increased greatly. Today, with a circulation of about ⁵⁰ six thousand, The Red Deer Advocate is one of the largest and most prosperous papers in Western Canada. Mr. Galbraith's comment on the business conditions prevailing in 1906 are of interest. "I found in a few weeks after I started that the earnings were not sufficient to meet the expenses, if I was to have anything for my family, so I proposed that an advance of fifty per cent be made on the regular advertising

49. F. W. Galbraith; op. cit., p. 19

50. Circulation, December, 1953, 6,365

rates. In those days of stimulation and speculation, of brilliant prospects and free movement, fifty per cent was looked on hardly more seriously than ten per cent to-day; even five or six ministers and lay preachers were in the real estate line. I had hardly got the accounts out in May, 1907 at the higher rates than the real estate boom collapsed. However, the advertisers stood by me loyally, and we worried through until the next boom came in 1909." To give an example of the real estate values of 1906 and later years, Mr. Galbraith just after he took over the paper purchased the lot on which the Advocate building stands for \$1,150. In 1934 he estimated that the lot had a value of \$1,200, but in 1953 the price of the land alone was about \$12,000.

Another paper, the Red Deer News, started to publish in 1904 with George Love, an experienced newspaper man, as owner and editor. In 1906 it was bought by John Carswell, a former Oshawa journalist who had been farming in the Horn Hill district. In 1922 H.G. Scott, a veteran of the First Great War, became owner and editor. In the rather quiet years in which he published the News Mr. Scott was often

hard pressed to obtain material for his paper. One method he employed was to write letters to himself, signing a fictitious name, and then comment editorially on the letters. He persuaded his friends to write letters to the editor on a variety of topics, and he also employed a local lady to contribute a "Women's Column". He had another column on what the babies were doing. Parents in the town and district liked to read in the News that their infant had taken his first step, said his first word, or performed some other noteworthy achievement. In spite of these expedients the News was not financially profitable, with the result that it was merged with the Advocate in 1926. Mr. Scott then served as a police magistrate for a time, and later moved from Red Deer.

From the days of the first settlement dairying has played an important part in the economy of Central Alberta. In 1896 the first creamery between Calgary and Edmonton was established in Red Deer at about the present-day location of the Texaco oil tanks in the south part of the town. It was a co-operative enterprise with Samuel Flack as buttermaker and manager. Although the building was of logs, the machinery was the best obtainable. Dairying

was not sufficiently well developed and the creamery became bankrupt within a short time. Andrew Trimble bought the machinery and made use of it on his own farm in the Clearview district just south-east of town. He built up a dairy herd of his own, and with some patronage from his neighbors, obtained sufficient cream to make his enterprise moderately successful. One of the hazards in his business was the difficulty of transporting the butter to the railway in Red Deer. The wagons had to make the journey over very poor roads, and had to ford Waskasoo Creek, not the quiet little brook of the present, but a rough, turbulent stream which carried a large volume of water. On one occasion a wagon loaded with one-pound prints upset in the creek. The swift current carried the butter downstream, where town residents were able to use long poles to fish out a good supply for themselves.

In 1901 another co-operative creamery was opened in the town itself. The location was near the river, just west of the traffic bridge. Mr. Flack again had charge of the enterprise, which operated for eleven years before it became bankrupt.

In 1910 the Laurentian Milk Company, financed largely by local capital, opened a factory to can milk

by a process which the sponsors claimed would result in a product indistinguishable in taste from fresh milk.⁵² The establishment of this new factory touched off a great wave of optimism in Central Alberta. People thought that the sale of whole milk to the factory would bring the farmers a steady cash income greater than they could hope to receive from the sale of cream alone. A publicity release of 1912 describes the product in glowing terms. "The company is establishing a large plant for the pasteurization and sterilization of milk. The milk after being treated is put in sealed bottles, and will keep good for any length of time. Part of the process consists of breaking up the solid part of the fluid, and so making it all one substance. When milk has been treated in this way the cream does not rise to the top, but remains an undivided portion of the milk."⁵³ At first the company was very successful in marketing its product, but by the time of the First Great War it was in financial difficulties. Customers found some of the milk to be spoiled when the bottles were opened. The failure of the Laurentian Milk Company was part of

52. The Red Deer Advocate, July 18, 1934

53. Board of Trade; Publicity Folder, 1912

the general collapse of the boom in Red Deer in 1914.

Dairying remained one of the basic industries of the district. The weekly cream cheque was an important item in the budget of most farm families. Even in those years in which frost or hail ruined the grain crops, the settler usually could manage to salvage enough feed to carry his dairy cattle through the winter. Old timers expressed the situation both forcibly and crudely: "Pull teats or pull out!"

The importance of the dairy industry was acknowledged in a unique way in October, 1912, when the Board of Trade tendered a banquet to Rosalind of Old Basing, a Jersey cow who had won the British Empire championship for milk production. Her owner, C.A. Julian Sharman, attended as Rosalind's proxy, and expressed the thanks of the famous animal for the honor done her. In three years Rosalind had produced 37,847 pounds of milk, yielding 2,504 pounds of butter fat. Her owner estimated the value of this milk and cream, together with the three heifer calves, at \$3,008. Mr. Sharman, who had trained as an architect in Britain, settled in the Red Deer district in 1901, where he sought with considerable success to show that intensive farming on a quarter section of land could be made

to yield a better living than could be obtained from
farming a section carelessly.⁵⁴

In November, 1936 the Central Alberta Dairy Pool opened a condensery in Red Deer. This factory, which is still Red Deer's largest industry, affects the economic well-being of a large section of Alberta. Nine hundred farmers from an area which extends about fifty miles in all directions from Red Deer ship milk to it. The Condensery has expanded its operations steadily over the years until in 1953 it processed about thirty million pounds of milk. In an average year the output amounts to 300,000 cases of condensed milk, valued at nearly three million dollars. The product is marketed under the brand names⁵⁵ "Cherub" and "Alpha".

The first man to ship cattle from Red Deer was G.W. Smith, who in 1891 established the first butcher shop in the town. At different times the farmers sought unsuccessfully to have a packing plant established in Red Deer. The production of cattle has increased steadily through the years, with over eight thousand being sold at the Sims Auction Market in 1953. Hogs are even more important than are beef cattle

54. C.A. Julian Sharman; letter, June 6, 1911

55. Ellis Johnson (Manager); oral statement

to the economy of the region, with more than thirty-three thousand being marketed in Red Deer in 1953.

A manufacturing industry which flourished in Red Deer in the early days was the Great West Lumber Company's sawmill. In 1905 this concern bought a mill which had been established by G.H. Bawtinheimer. The company secured logs from the upper stretches of the river, floating this timber down to Red Deer. By 1912 the enterprise employed as many as four hundred men in the woods and at the mill, and produced⁵⁶ over six million board feet of lumber. The payroll was of great importance in the economy of both the town and district. By 1916, however, the timber limits were nearly exhausted and markets were restricted. The mill was closed and the machinery sold. In 1953 the country west of Red Deer, especially in the vicinity of Rocky Mountain House, was an important timber producer, but since 1916 there has been no lumbering carried on at Red Deer itself.

By 1900 there was a great demand for homesteads in the Red Deer district. This influx of settlers was a manifestation of a much larger movement. The Canadian government hoped that the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad would result in a great wave of immigration to the West, but this did not occur for some time. "The blunt

56. Red Deer Board of Trade; Information Folder, 1913

truth was the Canadian West had to wait until the American West was filled up; this did not occur until the 1890's. As soon as the last good boundary state, North Dakota, had been settled, the condition had arisen for a diversion of the stream to Canada. The settlement of the Canadian West is an example of the general westward movement of the continent.⁵⁷ In this wave of immigration the majority of people coming to the Red Deer area were from Ontario, the British Isles and the United States. The influx caused the government in 1900 to open a Dominion Lands Office in Red Deer. Jerry Jessop was in charge of this office which was in a frame building on Ross Street, about where the Park Hotel now stands. In May, 1905 352 people filed on homesteads at Red Deer, which was the largest total for any office in Canada for that month. The number of entries for April, 1906 was 674, although this figure was not the highest⁵⁸ in the Dominion. Homestead activity continued until the collapse of the boom in 1914. After the land in the immediate vicinity of Red Deer had been all taken, the settlers turned to the country to the west, especially around Eckville and Rocky

57. A. R. M. Lower; From Colony to Nation, Longmans, Green and Company, Toronto, 1947, p. 420

58. Red Deer Advocate, May, 1906

Mountain House. When construction began on the Alberta Central Railway, which was actually the Canadian Pacific under another name, the movement of homesteaders into the western part of Central Alberta was greatly accelerated. In 1910 Sir Wilfred Laurier drove the first spike for this railway, which opened for traffic in 1914. Planned as a major road from Moose Jaw to the Pacific, this line held great possibilities for Central Alberta, but unfortunately it never built west of Rocky Mountain House or east of Red Deer. Mr. Galbraith, who in 1913 was sent by the Red Deer city council to interview President Shaughnessy of the Canadian Pacific, reported on the matter: "I do not think that there can be much doubt that the C.P.R. contemplated another line west through the Rockies in view of the standard of construction of the Alberta Central, and in view of the investment made in lots in Red Deer in the years 1910-1913 by C.P.R. folks. Dr. Grant, one of our stormy petrels for many years, declared that there was not a pass through the mountains west of Red Deer to allow the building of a railway. And whether the engineers found this to be the case, or whether the directors could not raise money for construction, or whether they concluded that

the commercial outlook for this central district did not warrant construction, or whether Calgary interests blocked the way, as Senator Michener said, the project was dropped. President Shaughnessy's answer was non-committal to our question about the extension of the line."⁵⁹ At any rate the line did open up for development a sixty-miles-long belt of territory.

In 1904 John T. Moore and his son, William, obtained from the town council a twenty-five year franchise for an electric light and power company which they organized under the name of the Western General. Their company began service in the same year, and soon proved so profitable that on various occasions the city tried to buy back the franchise. In 1926, when the franchise had only another three years to run, the council and Mr. W.J. Moore finally were able to agree on a price which amounted to little more than the actual physical value of the plant. Mayor Edgar Johns played an important part in negotiating the transfer, which gave the city control of a very profitable utility. Under municipal control rates have been cut to about one third of what they once were, while at the same time the profits have been equal to the amount that could be raised by ten mills on the tax rate. In the 1930's the council did not have

59. Francis Galbraith; op. cit., p. 24

to impose any levy for municipal purposes because the utility profits provided revenue for all needs other than schools and hospital. The city, which scrapped the old steam-driven generating plant, buys energy at wholesale rates from the Calgary Power Company. The estimated profits for 1954 are ⁶⁰ one hundred and ten thousand dollars. Although Red Deer was by no means the first in the field of public ownership of utilities, its experience has served to show that a small Western community can operate efficiently an electric light and power service.

60. The City of Red Deer; estimated budget, 1954



RED DEER, 1895

(Looking west on Ross Street)

(Photograph obtained from Mrs. T.A. Gaetz)

The Red Deer Board of Trade

In 1894, just three years after the tiny settlement on the railway began, the business men formed the Board of Trade. In the ensuing sixty years this body has played an important part in the development of the town and district. In April, 1953, to the regret of some people, the name was changed to the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. The original minute book for the period from 1894 to 1909 shows what the business men of one small Alberta community thought and did. The book gives a picture not only of Red Deer but of many other Western communities in their early days.

The first five years may be described as the period of hope. The population was less than two hundred, a few frame stores fronted on a muddy street, the rural roads were morasses over which the public had the right to travel, if it could, the uncleared bush lay close on all sides to the hamlet, but the country was young and the business men were young. Optimism was strong. The second five years were the period of moderate accomplishment. Schools were built, roads were constructed, settlers were encouraged.

The new province of Alberta was in the making. The third five-year period was the starting of the boom. The future seemed secure. The two thousand people of the town would soon be twenty thousand, and the brush covered quarter section on the outskirts would soon be an industrial suburb, while the citizen who was worth one hundred thousand dollars in unsold lots would soon be a millionaire. The year 1910 came and went, and all was well. The fourth five-year period saw the climax and swift collapse of the boom. The speculator let his lots go to the town for unpaid taxes, while the incipient millionaire closed the mansion which he could no longer afford to heat. In the choice industrial sites and high-class residential areas little wooden survey stakes marked the lot corners until the pasturing cattle knocked these pegs over. The fifth period from 1915 to 1920 was one in which the people turned all their thoughts and energies to the great struggle in Europe. At home there was rigid economy in municipal and business affairs and the acceptance of small-town status. It was not a defeatist attitude, but more an acceptance of fact. The quarter of a century following 1920 saw little change. Then in the decade beginning with 1945 growth began again, and before long the post-war boom was well under way.

New enterprises were started, but a note of caution, lacking in the first boom, was always present.

Examining the minute book in detail, one finds that the first entry is in formal language.

"Minutes of a meeting held in the office of the Red Deer Review this day, March 17, 1894, at eight p.m.

Present

John Burch, Ray L. Gaetz, R. C. Brumpton, Geo. W. Greene, Geo. W. Smith, R. M. Pardoe; P. Pidgeon, J. S. Hicks M. D., D. H. Murphy, Wm. Piper, R. D. Jackson and F. E. Wilkins.

"A motion was passed that D. H. Murphy be Chairman and Geo. W. Greene be Secretary.

"The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, namely, the formation of a Board of Trade.

"The following gentlemen were appointed to draft a constitution and a set of by-laws for the association, and to meet again on the 23rd inst.

Jno. Burch, D. H. Murphy, Geo. W. Greene.

Geo. W. Greene

Secretary Pro Tem."

The meeting was duly held on the 23rd, and the constitution was adopted. Raymond Gaetz became the first President, with Geo. W. Greene as Secretary-Treasurer.

An amusing entry dealt with immigration."The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to meet all trains for the next two weeks:D.H. Murphy;Jno Burch;Geo.W.Greene."As there were only two trains a week,and as the entire population of the village made a habit of closing down business and meeting all trains anyway,the formality of the resolution seems scarcely necessary.

The constitution adopted at this same meeting was clear and definite."The object of this association shall be the improvement of the town of Red Deer and district,commercially and municipally;the promotion of the district in its agricultural and natural resources,and in such other ways as may be beneficial to the district.Any male person of the age of twenty-one,of good moral character,may become a member on payment of a fee of two dollars a year. A ballot is to be taken on all prospective members, and if less than three black balls shall be found, the application shall be accepted."Additional features of the constitution were that any three members might call an emergency meeting,that the constitution might be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership at any regularly called meeting, and that the Secretary-Treasurer was to receive some remuneration for his work.

In April, 1894 the Board of Trade undertook its first important task in the field of municipal affairs. Steps were taken to bring Red Deer under the Unincorporated Towns Ordinance, and a committee of the Board defined the proposed boundaries for the town. Later in the year the Board secured the appointment of Robert McClelland as a land guide for the district. Although the population of the village was less than one hundred, the Board decided to advertise in Toronto for a man to start a newspaper in Red Deer. Then as now road conditions were a major interest of the business men of Central Alberta, and the Board of Trade had the whole-hearted support of all the people of the area in an attempt to have the government of the Territories do something to improve conditions. A letter was sent to the Commissioner of Public Works at Regina pointing out that in the preceding year the hamlet of Red Deer by self taxation had raised the sum of four hundred dollars for roads and streets, and that it was not unreasonable to expect the government of the North-West Territories to make a grant of at least one hundred dollars, "in order that the roads may be made at least passable."

Governments must have moved slowly then, for

five years later the chairman of the Roads Committee reported that nothing had been done about opening some of the much-wanted roads. A representative of the government stated that the Territorial Assembly had made provision for the expenditure of five hundred dollars on the roads leading out of Red Deer. With perhaps intentional humor, the Board of Trade responded with a resolution pointing out to the government that the roads leading in to Red Deer were nearly impassable. The members also sent a letter to the Commissioner of Public Works informing him that something should be done immediately about the bridge which had been swept away by the recent floods. "All means of crossing the river are now shut off, causing much hardship to the settlers, as well as much inconvenience to travellers, merchants and others." ⁶¹ "This question of public works in the Red Deer district was merely a manifestation of a much greater problem. Because the Dominion of Canada kept control of their natural resources, the North-West Territories had very meager funds. The members of the Board of Trade knew of the problem, and began to investigate the costs of a ferry, because they felt the government might be financially unable

61. The Red Deer Board of Trade; Minute Book, 1899

to replace the bridge, at least for some years.

Because the expected rush of settlers to the district had not materialized, the Board decided in 1899 that something should be done to encourage immigration to Central Alberta. They appointed a committee to prepare a pamphlet setting forth the advantages of the region. When the material had been collected it was printed by the Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto. The Ontario origin and the Methodist faith of the founding families of the settlement led them to urge that business should be done with Toronto business houses whenever possible. If they wanted a teacher, an editor, an architect or any other professional person, the advertisements were invariably published in the Ontario capital.

In 1900 a demand arose that Red Deer should attempt to become a judicial centre for its district. George W. Greene and Raymond Gaetz were appointed a committee to draft a petition asking that a court house be built. Their efforts were successful, and in August the Secretary was instructed to write the Minister of Public Works, Ottawa, expressing the satisfaction of the people of the area with the news that estimates had been passed for a court house at Red Deer.

In 1900 the Board of Trade undertook its second big task in the field of municipal affairs when it undertook to have Red Deer incorporated as a town. The members of the Board did all the necessary preliminary work, and on June 20, 1901⁶² the new town was formally incorporated.

In April, 1901 the Board suggested an ingenious solution to the bridge problem. After considerable discussion the officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway granted permission to the people of Red Deer to make a plank road on the railway bridge, provided that a watchman was appointed to keep the public off the bridge at train time. The Board of Trade offered the position of watchman to Mr. J. Usherwood at a salary of forty-five dollars a month, which it was hoped the Department of Public Works at Regina would pay. The substitute bridge served the needs of the people well, and it is strange that it was not more widely copied in the West. Later, however, the railway company strongly opposed any trespassing on their property.

In July, 1901 the Board requested the Ottawa government to stock Pine Lake and Sylvan Lake with "useful fish". On several occasions fish were released in Sylvan Lake, and in 1954 a representative of the

62. Dealt with more fully in Chapter III.

Alberta Fish and Game Branch conducted surveys in the Pine Lake district with the object of stocking some of the small lakes with trout.

In 1903 President H.H.Gaetz spoke on The Material Prosperity of the Town. His remarks indicate a growing spirit of optimism. "He alluded to a few of the industries, namely the brickyards of Piper and Co., and the Red Deer Brick Co., capable of turning out three million a year each, the Red Deer Lumber Company of Mr. Bawtinheimer, and the large increase in the lumber trade, the creamery with an unparalleled advance in output and the large business built up on its own merits. None of these industries had received any encouragement from the town. He mentioned the telephone system, and the prospect of having electric lights in the near future. He also said that while the town had prospered, the farmers also had in a measure been prosperous. Allusion was made to the advisability of inviting manufacturing industries, a flour mill, and electric trams or a railway to the vast coal fields to the east." ⁶³ Half a century later the brickyards and the lumber trade are no more, although a cement block company is flourishing. The creameries have closed, but a large condensery

63. The Red Deer Board of Trade; Minute Book, Dec., 1903

has replaced them. The mines at Nordegg are having difficult times because the railways are using oil rather than coal. The line to the east has never materialized. The town, however, has flourished, not as a manufacturing centre but as a distributing point. The population is now about twenty times as great as when President Gaetz spoke.

In 1904 the Board investigated the possibility of establishing a farmers' market in Red Deer where producers could sell directly to consumers. The scheme, which also interested the citizens of many other towns, was never tried in Red Deer, although it was frequently discussed.

In the same year Captain Cottingham, the Dominion Land Agent, suggested that the Board of Trade urge the Dominion government to reserve a large tract of land along the river for a public park. In the area of his proposed park there is a very deep gorge which is much like the Grand Canyon, but, of course, on a smaller scale. Although the members gave some support to his scheme, they did not press for it, and no action was taken by the Dominion. Soon the land was taken by homesteaders and the opportunity of making it into a park was gone.

In 1905 the major interest of the Board of Trade

was the creation of the new province. Because of its central location some members felt that Red Deer might be chosen as the site of the provincial capital. Edward Michener offered a free site for the government buildings on the East Hill, about where Dr. Parsons now has his home. The members of the Board of Trade felt that the economic benefits which would result from securing the capital would be considerable, and they spared no effort or expense in urging Red Deer's advantages. In April, 1906 they persuaded Premier Rutherford and the members of the Assembly to visit the town. The guests inspected the proposed site, made many complimentary speeches about Red Deer, and selected Edmonton, when the time came, as the capital.

Through 1905 and succeeding years the Board did all it could to attract industries to the town, but many of their prospective capitalists asked for many concessions before they would establish their industries in Red Deer. For example, one man promised to start a flour mill if he were given a free site, exemption from taxes for ten years, and a cash bonus of five thousand dollars. Later another man offered to establish a pork-packing plant. The Board of Trade agreed with the promoter when he

stated that the industry would benefit the community, but rapidly lost interest when they learned that he was not prepared to invest any of his own money. Proposals of this kind were typical of the attempts made by promoters to interest the citizens of Western towns in their schemes. Invariably the argument was advanced that if Red Deer did not accept the offer, some neighboring town would secure the industry.

In 1905 stringent measures were adopted to force delinquent members to pay their fees. "The President shall cause to be read in open meeting the names of any members six months in arrears. Any absent member shall then be notified by mail or personal service. If this fails to bring results, the Secretary shall notify the member by registered letter to appear at the next meeting and show cause why he should not be expelled. Any member in arrears may not vote or speak on any question other than his own delinquency. He may not hold any office in this association." ⁶⁴ The final penalty seems an anti-climax.

In 1906 a man from Chicago inquired about starting a brewery, but nothing came of his proposal. In 1954 a brewery did open. Another long-delayed

64. The Red Deer Board of Trade; Minute Book, Nov., 1905

project was Mayor Edward Michener's suggestion in 1906 that they should bore for gas. In 1953 and 1954 fifteen producing oil wells were drilled about eight miles east of Red Deer.

In 1907 the Secretary sent to the President of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway a letter which reveals the thoughts and hopes of the business men of Central Alberta forty-seven years ago. "The Board of Trade of Red Deer have authorized me to open up correspondence with your company with a view to securing connection with your line through Central Alberta by way of Red Deer.

"Red Deer, as you are no doubt aware, is situated about one hundred miles from either Calgary or Edmonton. It is just half-way between the two and is the centre of a splendid agricultural district known as Central Alberta.

"As a town it has many natural resources in addition to its central location to make it become an important place in the future. We have large deposits of coal both east and west, large timber interests, two extensive brickyards, as well as building stone.

"We notice by the map that a straight line running from Saskatoon to the Yellowhead Pass would

just about pass through Red Deer, and it would give your company a much shorter route for through traffic than the present line by way of Edmonton. We would be pleased to hear from your company as to whether we may hope for railway connection with the Grand Trunk in the near future."⁶⁵

In 1907 Raymond Gaetz showed considerable foresight in a speech which he made to the Board. In the first place he urged the establishment of agricultural colleges throughout the province. In the second place he called attention to the need for protecting and enlarging the forests. In the third place he recommended the appointment of a commission to investigate the insurance business in Alberta. His last point was that co-operative coal mining should be undertaken under the auspices of the government.

Later in the year the Board of Trade prepared a petition requesting that the Dominion government make Red Deer a port of entry. The customs authorities realized that an office in Red Deer would serve a large territory and granted the request. At first the amount of revenue collected was very small, but it increased gradually. In 1938 receipts were only \$44,000, but in 1953 they were \$343,000, definite evidence of the growth of commercial and industrial activity

65. M. A. Munroe, Secretary for 1907; letter

in the city and district.

Although they were successful in securing the customs office, the members failed completely in obtaining an adjustment of freight rates, which they felt placed a great handicap on Red Deer. The problem was first discussed in 1907, and was a topic for debate at many meetings in the later years, but no solution satisfactory to the railway company and the people of the district was ever proposed. In the larger field high transportation costs have always been an obstacle to Alberta's economy.

There is only one typewritten entry in the original minute book, which ends with the meeting of January, 1909. This is a resolution on civic affairs, moved by R. B. Welliver, who was prominent in the business life of the community for many years. The resolution called the attention of the town council to the condition of the streets, a matter which the Board of Trade frequently brought before the civic government. "Whereas Ross Street, one of the main business streets, and the first street that meets the eye of the transient public, is in a disgraceful condition, be it resolved that the



RED DEER, 1913

Board of Trade Photograph



BOARD OF TRADE PUBLICITY ,1913

(This photograph appears to be an alteration
of the one showing Red Deer in 1913.)

Town Council be requested to have Ross Street properly drained. The condition of our main street reflects in no small way the personnel of our municipal government."

Throughout the prosperous period from 1909 to 1914 the Board of Trade sought to attract industries to the area. The Board appointed a publicity director, who in 1913 prepared and distributed a large advertising pamphlet, which predicted among other things a population of twenty-five thousand for the town by 1920. A photographer in some way prepared a picture which showed street cars and large buildings as well as the familiar landmarks. Although this altered photograph was entitled Red Deer, 1923, many people felt that it was of doubtful honesty. The pamphlet did, however, give valuable information about the agricultural possibilities of the Red Deer district. In 1945 another folder was issued, but it was much smaller, and was limited to factual statements and actual pictures.

In 1934 the Board of Trade was instrumental in arranging a Jubilee Celebration in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Red Deer. Numerous interviews with old timers were published in the Advocate's special edition. As a direct result

67. The Red Deer Board of Trade; Minute Book, Jan. 12, 1909

of this jubilee celebration the Central Alberta Old Timers' Association came into being, and is still an active and thriving organization.

In 1947 the Board of Trade was responsible for the publication of a city directory which gives the name, occupation and address of all the inhabitants of Red Deer. This booklet has proved of great value to the citizens of the town and to visitors who wish to find someone living in the city. The system of house and street numbering, which made the directory possible, came about as a result of pressure from the Board on the City Council. In the original townsite survey the streets were all given names, but in later years this was modified, and some streets were numbered, but no house numbering was done, which meant that visitors had to be directed to an address by giving them a general description of the building. The system adopted in 1946 is similar to the one used in Edmonton. Ross Street and Gaetz Avenue, the two main thoroughfares, are Fiftieth Street and Fiftieth Avenue.

In concluding an account of Red Deer's economic development a recent article in the Financial Post presents a business man's appraisal of the city.

<u>"Red Deer</u>		
	Postwar	To-day
Population	4,042	11,200
Production	\$1,679,690	\$2,803,288
Retail Sales	\$4,247,000	\$16,950,000
Householders	1,199	2,105

"Red Deer claims to be the fastest growing city in Alberta. Spending for construction is one yardstick. Building permits last year, valued at \$3,885,250, were very nearly double the 1952 figure.

"Five new firms settled in the city during the year. Chrysler Corporation established a warehouse for the supply of spare parts to the whole of Alberta. This plant employs forty people. Smith-Connors, makers of drill bits for hard-rock diamond drilling and the oil industry built a plant employing fifteen persons. The Red Deer Brewery, which is just beginning production, cost \$1,500,000, and has a staff of fifty employees. Fry-Cadbury has built a central warehouse to supply the entire province, and employs fifteen workers. Western Supplies has built another warehouse for the supply of pipe and other plumbing fixtures. With a large labor supply Red Deer officials feel that they can look forward to an increase in the number of new firms, especially since the city is in

an advantageous area for warehousing and distributing." ⁶⁸

In the two hundred miles of prosperous country between Calgary and Edmonton there has to be some other centre of importance. Because it is on the one stream capable of supplying enough water for a large community, and because it is almost exactly half way between the two big cities, Red Deer seems destined to become this centre. In this fact lies the key to Red Deer's economic history.

68. The Financial Post, Toronto, April 24, 1954, p. 48

CHAPTER III
CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Municipal Government

The first local government in Red Deer was established May 31, 1894 when the government of the North-West Territories declared that Red Deer was¹ an unincorporated town. This status allowed only a very small measure of self government because it did not give authority for the citizens of the town to elect a council. A public meeting was held on June 14, at which Mr. R.M. Pardoe was appointed overseer for the year, and the tax rate was fixed at two mills. Apparently things went well in the village during the next year for no more public meetings were held until June, 1895, when the citizens again assembled with R.C. Brumpton, local merchant, as chairman, and G.W. Greene, local lawyer and banker, as secretary. The mill rate was left at the two mills set in the previous year, and Mr. Pardoe was requested to continue as overseer. The meeting directed the overseer to purchase two dozen wooden pails and three ladders for fire protection in the hamlet.

1. The Red Deer Advocate; Red Deer's
Municipal Development (article) July 11,
1934

Under the Unincorporated Towns Ordinance an area might nominate an overseer, whose appointment had to be confirmed by the Territorial Government at Regina. The unincorporated town had defined boundaries within which a property tax might be levied. A meeting of ratepayers had to be held at least once a year, and the overseer reported to this meeting, which also appointed an auditor to check on the spending of the public funds. It serves as an example of the way in which the Territorial Government in the Canadian West kept a much closer check on local affairs than did the state and territorial governments in the western part of the United States.

In the annual meeting for 1896 William Springbett, blacksmith, was nominated as overseer in succession to R. M. Pardoe. The meeting decided that a wooden sidewalk should be built from the Queen's Hotel to the Alberta Hotel, that is, a very short distance east of the railway station. As far as the records show, this was the first public work undertaken in Red Deer. Raymond Gaetz, merchant, was selected as auditor for the year.

The next recorded meeting was held in April, 1897, when a financial statement was presented to the ratepayers.

Receipts	\$126.76
Balance from previous	
year	<u>3.93</u>
Total	\$130.69
Expenditures	<u>90.36</u>
Balance	\$40.33

By way of contrast, the 1954 estimated revenue of the City of Red Deer is as follows:

Revenue	
a. Tax Levy	\$492,000
b. Other taxes	58,000
c. Grants	84,000
d. Utility Profits	
	<u>110,000</u>
Total	\$744,000

One happy feature of the 1897 report was that about one-third of the revenue raised during the year had not been spent, which resulted in a resolution that no taxes be levied in 1897. Another resolution stated that "the overseer be paid ten dollars for spending what is on hand, and what he can collect." The situation then was much better than to-day when all the city authorities may safely predict is constantly rising taxes.

In 1898 by Ordinance 27 Red Deer was classified as a village, which gave the inhabitants the right to

elect an overseer without reference to the Territorial Government.² Under the ordinance government was direct. There was no council, and the overseer carried out policies laid down in ratepayers' meetings. At the annual meeting held in March, 1898 a levy of two mills was authorized for general revenue, the money from poll taxes, dog taxes and peddlars' licences being assigned to the overseer as his salary. Fifteen per cent of the property tax was to be set aside as a contingent fund before the balance was spent on street improvements. The village ordinance was very rigid, and the meeting sent a request to Regina that an amendment be granted which would allow residents to let their cattle run loose within the village limits, and that the overseer be permitted to arrange for the planting of shade trees at public expense. The second part of the request indicates very clearly how little authority the overseer actually had in matters of finance.

Public funds were not large, and citizens were often expected to donate their services to the village, A proposal to pay Mr. A. B. Nash the sum of five dollars for auditing the accounts, which only amounted to \$152, provoked a stormy debate at the annual meeting of

2. J. W. Judge: Speech on Red Deer's
Municipal Growth; Red Deer
Advocate, 1953

ratepayers held in the spring of 1900. The majority felt that a citizen should not expect pay for a task of this kind, and defeated the proposal. One reason that the amount of money handled by the overseer was so small was that the school board appointed their own assessor who collected the school tax directly from the taxpayers. The custom of sending a requisition to the municipal authorities for the amount needed to operate the schools developed later.³

The year 1900 saw the beginning of a period of fairly rapid growth and there was a need for increased revenue. A two mill rate had sufficed in 1899, but in 1900 the rate had jumped sharply to seven. The ratepayers' meeting which had agreed to the higher levy also appointed a licence inspector and passed a resolution prohibiting cattle and horses running at large within the village between the hours of nine in the evening and six in the morning. The pioneers objected to having their sleep broken by nocturnal raids on their gardens by the neighbors' stock.

In 1901 Mr. A. B. Nash was selected as overseer. He was the last person to hold that office because the

3. Red Deer Public School District 104,
Minute book.

people of the village now felt that they needed more autonomy in civic matters than they had under the village ordinance, and therefore, they should seek to have Red Deer incorporated as a town. A committee investigated the matter. Their report to a public meeting showed that incorporation would bring increased autonomy and increased expense. The meeting voted by a large majority, though not unanimously, to apply to Regina for a change in status. A proclamation by Lieutenant-Governor Forget established the new town of Red Deer on June 20, 1901, and appointed George Greene, lawyer, as returning officer for the civic elections, which resulted in these choices:

Mayor - Mr. R. L. Gaetz

Council - D. S. Long

W. A. Moore

H. Sharples

W. Springbett

R. C. Brumpton

F. E. Wilkins

The council then appointed George Green as the first solicitor for the town, with L. C. Fulmer as the first Secretary-Treasurer.⁴ The estimates for the year showed

4. Photograph of First Council -opposite
page 127



I



II



III

LOWER PICTURES

- I. Mr. R.L. Gaetz in later life
Mayor 1901 - 1903
- II. Dr. Leonard Gaetz.
The founder of Red Deer
- III. Mr. A.T. Stephenson
Commissioner 1908 - 1934

that the committee had not been wrong in forecasting increased expenditures. The council planned to spend \$2591.00 or nearly three times the amount spent in the preceding year. The first banking business, a loan against uncollected taxes, was done with Mr. Greene's private bank. The regular statutory meeting was set for the first Wednesday in each month, but this was changed frequently in the following years. A surveyor, Major Laurie, was engaged to mark out the street lines, and a poundkeeper, Joseph Smith, was appointed to prevent animals from running at large within the town. An incident which was regarded very seriously at the time although it caused considerable amusement in retrospect, was the matter of a dead horse. Either as a practical joke or as a protest against the relentless advance of civilization some pioneer deposited the body of a long-dead animal at the east end of Ross Street, the main thoroughfare. The council made a determined effort to discover the culprit, but had no success. Certain other settlers were slow to conform to the new conditions, and in 1902 William Posthill, a prominent merchant, protested vigorously about people who persisted in dumping loads of barnyard manure in the depression which was close to his

house on Ross Street. The aldermen promised to take action against the practice of dumping rubbish indiscriminately throughout the townsite, and appointed Dr. Denovan as the first Medical Officer of Health. Though the 1901 census gave Red Deer's population as 323, there were no sewers, and no water supplies other than shallow wells which were easily polluted. A housewife who wanted milk simply set a pitcher on the porch steps and the milkman, who carried in his wagon a large can of unpasteurized milk, a funnel and a quart can, measured the required amount into the pitcher.⁵ Farmers might offer the produce of their own farms for sale in the town without any inspection, and it was not until as late as 1930 that a person offering meat for sale had to produce for inspection the head, liver and lungs of the animal in order that it might be checked for disease. However, with the appointment of Dr. Denovan the council began a policy of seeking to improve public health conditions. The aldermen stated that they would support the medical officer in all reasonable steps to protect the community against epidemics, impure food, improper disposal of wastes, and any other practices which might menace the general health of the inhabitants.

5. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p.126

In 1902 the town council made strong representations to the Territorial Government with regard to roads. They urged that a system of main thoroughfares, which they named colonization roads, be established by the territories, and that from these main arteries the local authorities could establish branch roads. The scheme was a good one, but because the natural resources were under federal control, the territories had very restricted revenues, and any major highway development was too expensive for them to undertake, so nothing came of the council's request.

By 1903 the major issue in the municipal field was the provision of utilities in the expanding town. John T. Moore, who had been prominent in the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company, organized the Western General Electric Light Company, obtaining for this concern a twenty-five year franchise and the right to use the streets and lanes without charge in erecting a distribution system. The town undertook to install street lights and to pay the company for the power used by them at a fixed rate per light per year. Mr. Moore also received a franchise for the Western Telephone Company, which was to be exempt from municipal taxes. The council engaged John Galt, a qualified engineer, to estimate the cost of installing

waterworks and sewers. They agreed to purchase the electrical energy to drive the water pumps from the Western General.⁶ Later the citizens criticized the 1903 council severely for granting such generous terms, but in 1903 the success of the enterprise was doubtful. For example, it was not until 1906 that Frank Michener installed the first commercial power motor connected to the company's lines.⁷ After prolonged negotiations the City of Red Deer in 1926 took over the generating plant and distributing system, operating the utility as a very profitable municipal enterprise. In the same year that they considered the question of electric light and a waterworks system (1903) the members of the town council decided to give a pledge of financial support to the Memorial Hospital, which had been built by private subscription as a memorial to three young men of the district who had been killed in the South African War. The council estimated that it needed eight thousand dollars for municipal purposes in 1903, and this sum could be raised by a mill rate of eighteen.⁸

In 1904 the ideas of the council were ahead of the

6. The Red Deer Advocate, July 18, 1934

7. F. W. Galbraith; Fifty Years of Newspaper Work,
P. 20

8. City of Red Deer, municipal records

ideas of the ordinary citizens. A gasoline fire engine and one thousand feet of hose were obtained for demonstration purposes, but the bylaw to purchase this was defeated by a vote of the ratepayers, who did not think such equipment necessary. In October the burgesses did give approval to the waterworks plan by a vote of fifty-nine to nine, and work started on that utility in the fall. However, though the vote indicated overwhelming support for the undertaking, Mayor Michener in 1905 came in for severe criticism by some people who felt that he and the council were embarking on too pretentious a program of public works, including streets, sidewalks and the water system. Incidentally, it was not until 1906 that a start was made on providing public sewers. The pipes that were installed were very small, and in times of heavy rain flooding of basements occurred. No storm sewers were laid, although the need became apparent as early as 1913. Even in 1954 this utility is lacking, and it must be provided before proper streets can be constructed in many parts of the city.

In 1905 dissension arose within the council over the matter of paying for the new utilities. Some of the members wanted to pay at least part of the cost out of current revenue, but the majority favored the issuing of

debentures for the total cost. The majority view was certainly the popular one in Western Canada in 1905, for practically all municipal authorities favored borrowing for public works, overlooking the fact that interest charges nearly doubled the cost of many undertakings. The borrowing also was a symptom of the lack of capital in the West. By way of contrast, in the period after 1920 Red Deer adopted a pay-as-you-go policy with excellent results, clearing off all debt, and receiving maximum value for its tax money because nothing had to go for interest. Unfortunately, by 1953 the boom after the Second Great War had resulted in heavy borrowings, which built up the funded debt to \$800,000 with interest to maturity calculated at \$183,000.

In 1906 an instance of municipal red tape aroused much resentment. A man by the name of John Matson was refused admission to the hospital because he had no order for hospitalization. A coroner's jury condemned the action very strongly. "We cannot but express our strong disapproval of the officials of the hospital who refused admission to a dying man because an order was not first obtained."⁹

9. The Red Deer Advocate, April 1906

In 1906 the council had a civic census taken. The population according to this count numbered 1,710. By way of contrast the civic census of 1954 gave a total of 10,789 which was an increase of 1625 over the figure for 1953. The increase in the one year almost equalled the town's population in 1906.¹⁰

In 1906 the council received protests that gambling was being carried on within the town limits. A bylaw which strictly prohibited slot machines or other gambling devices was passed, but proved difficult to enforce. The Agricultural Society's annual fair always included a midway on which gambling booths were an important feature. Other local organizations often sponsored carnivals at which games of chance formed the main entertainment. In all of these cases the local authorities made no attempt to prosecute the operators of the gambling devices. In 1952 Police Magistrate James Smith at the annual meeting of ratepayers denounced in strong terms the lax way in which the anti-gambling ordinance was enforced in Red Deer.

In 1906 municipal affairs were flourishing in Red Deer, and the ratepayers approved bylaws which provided \$20,000 for waterworks, \$4,000 for street improvements and \$5,000 for the erection of a firehall. Interest

10. Ernest Newman, City Clerk, April 30, 1954

among the citizens was not great for only forty out of a qualified two hundred and thirteen took the trouble to vote. The provision of a firehall, though, did indicate considerable development from the days when fire protection equipment consisted of a few wooden ladders and pails. The new fire hall also indicated the hope of future growth for it bore the inscription "Firehall Number One". There is not a "Firehall Number Two" even half a century later.

Red Deer was one of the Western towns which adopted the commission form of government. Two commissioners, one of whom was always the mayor, were given extensive powers, subject to review by the elected council. The new form of administration proved very successful. Much credit for the success of the experiment should go to the late A. T. Stephenson who held the position of Secretary-Treasurer and Commissioner for the town and city from 1908 to 1935. Mr. R. S. Gillespie held the position from 1935 to 1953, doing a very fine job of administration during that time. Mr. J. A. Beveridge became commissioner in 1953.

Although relations between the town council and the school board were generally harmonious, in 1907 the council received a snub on the occasion of the opening

ceremonies at the new school. Because in 1906 the council had not invited the trustees to a banquet given the members of the Legislative Assembly, the school board refused to have the mayor and aldermen take any part in the opening of the school, and did not even invite them to attend the function.

In 1907 the town council and the Western General Electric Light Company went to arbitration over a dispute about rates. The decision favored the company, which was allowed to increase its rates from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars for a business telephone, and ten dollars to twenty-three dollars for a domestic telephone. The rate for electricity was set at twenty cents per kilowatt hour, while the charge for street lights was increased from seventy-five dollars to one hundred dollars per year. As wages were much lower than those paid in 1954, these utility rates seem very high, especially for electricity. However few homes had any appliances, other than lights and the total power consumption was small.

Throughout 1908 and 1909 business conditions were good. Tax collections, an excellent indication of general economic conditions within the community, amounted to nearly ninety per cent of the levy each year. The 1913

assessment showed a very great increase, but this was mainly the result of inflated values placed on unimproved lots. However, the owners stopped paying taxes on these lots when they could not sell them at a profit and as a result of tax seizures, by 1920 the city held title to almost all vacant land within the city limits.

In April 1909 Mr. A. G. Ayres became assistant to A. T. Stephenson in the town office. He held that position and also that of city clerk for nearly forty years. Red Deer has been fortunate in having conscientious men of ability such as Mr. Ayres, Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Stephenson who gave many years of outstanding service to the municipality. Mr. Stephenson in particular was recognized outside Red Deer as an authority on municipal finance, and in 1940 was honored by a life membership in the Union of Alberta Municipalities.¹¹ Another public-spirited citizen was Mr. H. H. Gaetz, who in 1909 donated to the town a tract of land along the south bank of the river. This land became Gaetz Park, to-day one of the beauty spots of the town. Mr. Gaetz in 1915 became Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta.

11. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p.129

In 1909 the council made an unsuccessful attempt to acquire the electric light plant. The company and the municipality could not agree on the value of the unexpired portion of the franchise.

The lack of planning in the growth of many Western towns was exemplified in a court case in February, 1910 when Philip Pidgeon began legal proceedings to unseat Francis Galbraith from the town council. The basis of the action lay in the fact that the properties along Waskasoo Avenue were divided by the boundary of the town. As a result Mr. Galbraith's house was in the rural municipality of Pine Lake, but his outbuildings were in Red Deer. Mr. Pidgeon argued that Galbraith, therefore, was not a resident of the town. Judge Scott awarded the decision to Galbraith, but ordered that each party should bear his own costs. The judgment established the precedent that in cases where part of a property lay within a municipality the owner might claim to be a resident of that unit, provided, of course, that he did not claim to be a resident of the other municipality also. Fortunately no house was divided by the boundary or the case might have been much more complicated.

In April 1910 the first mention of automobiles appeared in the council's minutes. The aldermen decreed

that no car should exceed a speed of ten miles an hour within the limits of the town. Horses, though, were still the chief means of transportation, and signs warned drivers that fines would be levied on anyone who rode or drove across the river bridge at a speed greater than a walk. Only the venturesome made long trips by automobile, and a person who drove his car to Calgary or Edmonton was well advised to carry an axe, a shovel, and a block and tackle.

On August 11, 1910 Sir Wilfred Laurier visited Red Deer. The council shared with the local Liberal Association the costs of twelve hundred dollars which were incurred in arranging a reception for him. It was not until August 1953 that another prime minister spent any time in Red Deer, but in the case of the last visit the city council made no grant towards defraying the expenses of Mr. St. Laurent.

In 1911 an adjacent municipality was organized when the people living north of the river obtained incorporation of their district as the Village of North Red Deer. It retained its separate identity until it amalgamated with Red Deer in 1947. Because this area had no water or sewer lines, the provision of utilities in North Red Deer has been a major undertaking for the city. The basic problem is one which confronts many Alberta cities.



OPENING OF THE 1911 BASEBALL SEASON

Mayor Welliver about to deliver the first ball

(Photograph by courtesy of W.J. Botteril)

People build outside the city limits because taxes are lower there and building restrictions are very minor. After the region has been built up it seeks union with the adjacent city in order to obtain the necessary public utilities, but the city is reluctant to take it over because the taxes obtained from the area are far less than the expenses incurred there. The Red Deer Town Planning Commission proposes to meet the problem by establishing a minimum of four acres for small holdings. If a landowner wishes to subdivide he must pre-pay the costs of streets, sidewalks, water mains and sewers, in all a charge of about six hundred dollars on a fifty-foot lot.

The census of 1911 showed a population of only slightly more than two thousand people,¹² but the municipal authorities confidently expected that this would soon increase by five or ten times. The commissioners made a report to the council on traffic conditions. "The congestion of traffic on Ross Street has increased rapidly, and we must anticipate that it will go on increasing, and that in time street cars will be running on our streets. " The congestion came after the Second Great War, not on Ross Street but on Gaetz Avenue, which forms part of Number Two Highway.

In June 1911 the town council and local citizens raised sufficient money to honor the boy scout troop. A bandit by the name of Kelly shot down the chief of police who tried to arrest him as he was holding up two citizens. The bandit escaped. While hundreds of adults searched the countryside Scoutmaster A. R. Gibson had the boys check the vacant lots within the town itself and they found the wanted man. The funds provided by the council were used to send Patrol Leaders Donald Chadsey and Phillip Galbraith to the King's Rally in England of scouts from all over the world.

In 1913 Red Deer obtained a city charter, becoming the fifth city in Alberta both in order of incorporation and in population. Francis Galbraith had the honor of becoming the first Mayor of the City.¹³

13. The following men have held the office of Mayor:

1901 - 1903	R. L. Gaetz
1904	G. A. Love
1905 - 1906	E. Michener
1907 - 1908	H. H. Gaetz
1909	W. G. Botteril
1910	S. E. McKee
1911 - 1912	R. B. Welliver
1913	F. W. Galbraith
1914	S. N. Carscallen
1915 - 1916	J. A. Carswell
1917 - 1918	G. W. Smith
1919 - 1920	W. E. Lord
1921 - 1924	John Collison

(Continued on next page)

In the same year, 1913, economic conditions throughout Western Canada were poor and Red Deer suffered severely. In August the city could only secure a bid of eighty-three for six per cent debentures, and by December the city was unable to pay the school board its demands because the banks had refused to extend further credit. Unemployment became a problem which the municipal authorities bravely tried to solve by embarking on a program of public works, but financial difficulties soon brought this construction to a halt.¹⁴

The year 1914 was the beginning of a period in which the watchword in municipal affairs was simply "economy".

13. (Continued from page 140)

1925 - 1927	E. G. Johns
1928 - 1930	H. J. Snell
1931 - 1932	F. W. Turnbull
1933 - 1936	W. P. Code
1937 - 1943	E. S. Hogg
1944 - 1947	H. W. Halladay
1948 - 1949	C. R. Bunn
1950 - 1951	J. W. Bettenson
1952 - 1953	Paul Crawford
1954	H. W. Halladay

Commissioners:

1908 - 1935	A. T. Stephenson
1935 - 1953	R. S. Gillespie
1953	J. A. Beveridge

First City Council: S. N. Carscallen;
J. A. Carswell; W. E. Lord; G. W. Smith;
G. H. Murrin; W. J. Botteril
(Murrin resigned and was replaced by
W. Piper)

14. Francis Galbraith; op. cit., p.24

As the population began to decline speculators just refused to pay taxes on the hundreds of lots which they had hoped to sell at a profit. The assessment dropped and the mill rate rose.¹⁵

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Mill Rate</u>	<u>City Debt</u>
1910	\$1,460,000	22	\$177,000
1914	\$4,229,000	16	\$440,000
1918	\$2,621,000	25	\$421,000
1922	\$1,649,000	65	\$405,000
1934	\$1,362,000	41	\$125,000
1952	\$6,051,000	42.5	\$715,000

During the period of John Collison's mayoralty the council, largely on the urgings of the commissioners, adopted the policies which led to a slow, steady improvement. Borrowings were replaced by a pay-as-you-go policy and public works were cut to a minimum. In his report for 1922 Commissioner Stephenson stated, "The expenditures for this year have been kept down as low as possible, and we have been trying to save every dollar possible. "By the early 1930's Red Deer's financial position was excellent. The depression actually placed little strain on the municipal government. Some attempt was made to care for the unemployed by public works such as a new water reservoir

and grading and gravelling the streets, but assistance mostly took the form of straight relief payments. Red Deer's virtually debt-free condition attracted widespread interest, and municipal officials from many places visited the town to try to learn the secret of its financial success. The answer to their question lay in efficient officials and an avoiding of any undertakings which could not be paid out of current revenue. The profits on the electric light and power system, which had been bought from the Western General in 1926, made it unnecessary in many years to strike any mill rate for municipal purposes, but only for schools and hospital.

A policy which was widely copied in Central Alberta was adopted in Red Deer with regard to the sale of city-owned lots. After 1936 a moderate amount of building began. The city sold lots only to individuals who guaranteed to erect substantial improvements within one year. Speculation became impossible because title was not transferred until the new building had passed inspection by city officials. The price charged for the land was nominal because the main object was to get more property on the tax roll.

In 1947 Red Deer entered a second boom period, which placed a severe strain on municipal finances. Although millions of dollars of new property has been added to the

assessment roll, the demand for public works has forced the council into very heavy borrowings. For the average citizen taxes have more than doubled, while at the same time services have become poorer and poorer. Streets that were gravelled and well maintained in the 1930's are now quagmires in wet weather and thick with choking dust after a day without rain. Many citizens sigh for the efficiency and economy of the past. From the larger standpoint an important question is being tested in Red Deer municipal government: Can a city which is largely residential find the tax revenues to provide a satisfactory level of public services?

The financial picture for the city of Red Deer in March 1954 is shown in the following statistics:¹⁶

<u>1954 Assessment</u>	\$8,800,000
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<u>Tax levy</u>	\$492,000, including \$247,000 for schools and \$84,000 for hospital.
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Other taxes, such as special assessments, raise the total revenue to be obtained locally to \$550,000

<u>Provincial grants</u>	\$84,000
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Estimated profit on sale of electric power
\$110,000 (or about twelve mills on the assessment)

<u>1954 mill rate</u>	56 mills
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16. The Red Deer Advocate, March 17, 1954

The post-war tax rates have been as follows:

1946--44 mills; 1949--45 mills; 1950--55 mills; 1951--52 mills; 1952--42.5 mills; 1953--58 mills. In 1954 higher assessments were imposed on all properties. Taxes on most residential properties are about double what they were at the end of the Second Great War.

With relation to Central Alberta generally Red Deer's municipal history has shown that the commission form of government can be made to function well in a small community. It has shown also that a community may recover from practically bankrupt conditions provided there is an almost static population, but even the most careful management cannot prevent a load of municipal debt in a period of rapid expansion of population. Citizens who have gone to neighboring communities to settle have carried from Red Deer a tradition of intelligent interest in civic affairs. Municipal councils often serve as a training ground for men who later play a prominent part in provincial or federal affairs, but with the exception of Edward Michener who served as mayor and later became a senator, no member of the Red Deer council went on to play a part of prominence on the wider stage.



Red Deer from the Air, 1947

The vertical line to the left of
centre is Gaetz Avenue.



I



II



III



IV



V



VI

PROMINENT CITIZENS

- I. F.W. Galbraith
First Mayor of the City of Red Deer, 1913
- II. R.S. Gillespie
Commissioner 1934 - 1953
- III. E.S. Hogg
Mayor 1937 - 1943
- IV. John Collison
Mayor 1921 - 1924
- V. James Bower
First President of the U.F.A. , 1909
- VI. Mrs. J.A. McCreight
First woman member of the School Board , 1926

B. Red Deer's Political History

Red Deer's political party history has been rather an unorthodox one. John T. Moore, Edward Michener, and Dr. Michael Clark are three names that serve to recall interesting issues and campaigns. Even before the creation of the Province of Alberta in September, 1905 Mr. Moore offered himself as a non-party candidate who would seek to obtain the provincial capital for Red Deer.¹ He argued that in nearly all the American states the capitals were not the large commercial centres, and, though Edmonton was the centre of the new province geographically, Red Deer was the centre of the more settled part. Their national organization urged the Liberals in and around Red Deer to throw their support to the organized Liberal campaign which was planned for the Alberta provincial elections rather than to work for an independent. Because he could not hope for victory unless he had the support of one of the major parties, Mr. Moore swung to the Liberal side, winning the nomination as the candidate for that party. However, one group professed to have no faith in Mr. Moore's conversion, and nominated A. D. McKenzie of Penhold as a second Liberal candidate. The provincial Liberal convention in Calgary evaded the issue by excluding both

1. Red Deer Advocate, June 1905

the Moore and McKenzie delegations from all proceedings. Therefore in the November elections both men claimed to be the Liberal candidate for Red Deer. Although the editor of the Advocate wrote that Dr. Gaetz was "making a grave mistake by allowing himself to be drawn into the troubled sea of politics", Dr. Gaetz accepted the Conservative nomination, and campaigned vigorously for that party. Even families divided on the issue, some of Dr. Gaetz's own sons, for example, supporting him while others worked strongly for Mr. Moore.² The majority of the voters in the constituency thought that Mr. Moore was the better man to advance Red Deer's economic interests in the Legislature, and he won by a small majority. The total vote, which was not large, showed the following results: Moore 532; Gaetz 488; McKenzie 80. The Liberals won the election with successful candidates in almost every constituency in the province. In its first provincial election Red Deer by a narrow margin had voted with the majority party, although the town itself actually gave a majority for the Conservatives.

In the election of 1909 the Rutherford government swept the province, winning thirty-four out of forty-one seats. Red Deer, however, was on the losing side this time electing Edward Michener as an Independent over John T. Moore. Michener's majority was 163.³ Although he had been

2. W. J. Botteril; oral statement

3. The Red Deer Advocate, March 1909

elected as an Independent, Michener, who had Conservative leanings, became the leader of the latter party in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. R. B. Welliver became the Liberal candidate in the elections of April, 1913. He conducted a vigorous campaign against Michener, who managed to win, this time as an avowed Conservative, by the narrow margin of 81 votes. As an example of how strictly party lines were drawn in 1913, Mr. Botteril, the Conservative leader in the constituency, stated that on the day before the election he had been able to predict the results in each poll within a matter of a few votes. Within the town itself the Conservative majority was larger proportionately than it was in the constituency at large. Both candidates had promised to promote legislation to prohibit the sale of liquor in the open bar as each felt that this pledge would gain him the support of the influential Moral Reform League. However, party allegiance rather than any specific issue determined the election. Because so many settlers in the Red Deer district had come from Ontario where the Conservative tradition was strong, that party had an advantage. Regardless of the causes, Red Deer again had voted for a minority party.

In the 1916 elections Michener and Welliver were the candidates. Feeling ran so high that even the school children chanted slogans in support of the man their

parents favored. When all the votes except those from one small poll in the Rocky Mountain House region had been tallied, Welliver led by a small margin. Because the vote from the small poll was much larger than had been expected, and because this vote went almost solidly for Michener, the Conservatives won this election by a very slight majority.⁴

In 1917 Mr. Michener received an appointment to the Senate as a reward for his efforts for the Conservative party in Alberta. The Liberal party in the Red Deer constituency was divided between those who approved of Dr. Clark's supporting the Borden government, and those who strongly opposed his action. In the by-election which was made necessary by Michener's resignation those Liberals who thought that Clark was in the right decided that a Unionist candidate should enter the provincial field. At a joint convention Francis Galbraith, a former Liberal, received the nomination as a Unionist candidate. "Unionist" was an unfortunate term because the members of this new party certainly were not united. The Michener wing of the Conservative party favored F. W. Kenny. Other and more

4. Francis Galbraith; op. cit., p26

influential people also displayed opposition to Galbraith. "The Liberal government at Edmonton did not take kindly to this Unionist game in provincial affairs, and as the U. F. A. seemed also to be growing in strength and interest in politics, they determined to hit hard and put an end by decisive action in the Red Deer by-election to those anti-party and independent movements. I went to Edmonton and assured Premier Stewart of my good faith towards the government as a non-party representative, but they wanted a straight supporter."⁵ The cabinet spared no effort in supporting John J. Gaetz, a pioneer farmer, with the result that the Unionists were so thoroughly beaten that Galbraith lost his deposit. The decisive victory at Red Deer, however, had no lasting effect on the fortunes of the provincial Liberal party, which was swept out of office by the U. F. A. in 1921. Red Deer on this occasion was with the majority, returning G. W. Smith of the U. F. A. in preference to Mr. Gaetz. The farmer victory indicated that common economic interests were cutting across the old party affiliations.

Red Deer continued to support the U. F. A. government until the death of Mr. Smith in 1931. Because economic conditions were almost desperate there was a strong protest vote in the by-election. Feeling against the government was so strong in Red Deer, which had previously been

regarded as a safe U. F. A. seat, that even Raymond Gaetz, one of the most respected men in the community, was unable to hold the riding for the farmers' party, and W. E. Payne, a strong Conservative, won the by-election. Disunity in the U. F. A. ranks also helped to bring about the defeat, which was a forecast of things to come. In the 1935 general election the new Social Credit party won the Red Deer seat by an overwhelming majority, although in the town itself the contest was not as one-sided as it was at many rural polls where the Social Credit majority was often as great as fifty to one.

A small incident which occurred at a rural meeting may serve to explain the mood of those depression days. Mr. Speakman, the Federal member, was attacking the Social Credit theories with considerable effect. A farmer stood up and stopped him, saying, "Mr. Speakman, please don't go on. My position is desperate, and if you destroy my hope in Social Credit, I can see nothing ahead of me but suicide."⁶ Another farmer gave his reasons for voting as he did in these words: "I know I don't understand Aberhart's theories, but I've listened to his preaching for a long time, and I think that he's a godly man whom I can trust. I have faith in him." In the Red Deer area the original Social Credit victory of A. J. Hooke resulted from an odd mixture

of almost equal parts of economic despair, fundamentalist religion, and efficient organization of every part of the constituency.

By 1940 dissatisfaction with the Social Credit administration had become strong in the Red Deer riding. The opposition groups combined their efforts in support of Alfred Speakman who ran as an Independent. He won over the Social Credit candidate, George McCullough. Mr. Hooke did not stand in Red Deer, but instead was elected in Rocky Mountain House. Unlike Moore and Michener, who soon dropped their designation of "Independent", Mr. Speakman, who died in office in 1943, remained aloof from any of the older parties, and because he had been a federal member for fourteen years, was an effective critic of the administration. In the by-election made necessary by his death the Independents failed to maintain their unity, and David Ure regained the riding for Social Credit. Ure's victory was partly the result of a new development: Many people now regarded Social Credit not as a radical but rather as an ultra-Conservative party, and even in 1943 the Conservative tradition was strong in Red Deer. Ure easily retained the seat in 1944 and succeeding general elections. At the time of his death in 1953 he held the position of Minister of Agriculture.

In the by-election held in the spring of 1954 Red Deer, as in the days of Edward Michener, became one of the few Alberta constituencies to return a Conservative to the provincial house. Cameron Kirby, a local lawyer, defeated Donald Prescott, Social Credit. There have been almost as many explanations of the surprising upset as there are people in the constituency, but the basic causes seemed to be a return to the traditional Conservatism of the area, and an element of protest against the provincial administration. The single transferable ballot helped in this element of protest because Prescott actually had a slight majority of the first choices, but was defeated by the second choice votes of the C. C. F. Mr. Kirby has been suggested as the provincial Progressive-Conservative leader, and should he attain this position, Red Deer's position in provincial politics will be almost exactly the same as it was in the period from 1909 to 1917.

In the federal field no account of Red Deer should omit the name of a man who is even yet widely remembered in Canada, Dr. Michael Clark. As late as 1953 Prime Minister St. Laurent stated that until he actually had visited the city Red Deer represented to him only the home of Dr. Michael Clark. Actually Dr. Clark never did live in Red Deer itself but was a resident of the Eagle Hill

district a short distance west of Olds. His son still lives there. However, Dr. Clark, whose skill in oratory and ability in debate became known on the national scene, gave Red Deer some of the best publicity it ever received.

Dr. Clark, who was a medical man by training, had been a member of the British House of Commons, but in Canada he had started farming as a career, and had no intention of standing for parliament. In the small community of Central Alberta his outstanding abilities soon attracted attention, and in 1908 he was nominated as the Liberal candidate in the Red Deer constituency. George F. Root, a prominent cattleman, stood for the Conservatives. The Liberal slogan, "Vote for Laurier, Clark and railway development", proved effective in the straight party contest which followed, although the contest was close. Clark had a majority of 242 votes.⁷ He at once began to attract attention in the Canadian parliament. In the election of 1911 he easily gained re-election, this time having a majority of 2,500 votes over the Conservative candidate. In the town of Red Deer the strong Conservative group made the contest much closer than in the rest of the constituency. In the First Great War Dr. Clark supported the Union Government, and in 1917 he was successful at the

7. Red Deer Advocate, October 1908

polls although many old-line Liberals did not approve of his change. He failed to secure the Red Deer nomination of the Liberal party in 1921, and stood, instead for a Saskatchewan constituency, where he was defeated. He died shortly afterwards.

Brilliant in debate, a master of the language and having a very rich, full voice, Dr. Clark had one weakness, a fondness for alcohol, which had caused him to leave England, and probably was the reason why he did not attain cabinet rank in this country. However, it will be many years before "Red Michael of Red Deer" is forgotten.

W. F. Puffer of Lacombe received the Liberal nomination in 1921, but the election was won by the U. F. A. candidate, Alfred Speakman, who had been prominent in the farmer movement in Central Alberta for a long time. Speakman consistently voted with the Progressive or "Ginger" group at Ottawa although he always regarded himself as primarily a U. F. A. man. The new economic alignment cut across the old party lines and many people who had formerly voted either Liberal or Conservative came to feel that their interests were best served by keeping Mr. Speakman as their representative. He was not seriously challenged until the Social Credit sweep of 1935, when he met complete disaster

at the hands of Eric Poole, the Social Credit candidate. In 1940 F. D. Shaw, a former teacher, gained the Social Credit nomination. He has represented the Red Deer constituency ever since. Red Deer since 1921 has supported minority groups at Ottawa, although it has voted with the rest of the province. We tend to keep the same man as our representative, Clark for thirteen years, Speakman for fourteen, and Shaw for at least fourteen. This reluctance to change stems from a deep-rooted conservatism in the area. It is another manifestation of the strong Ontario influence which has prevailed in the region from the days of the first settlement.



THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THE RED DEER
PUBLIC SCHOOL

1911

(The second photograph of this building
shows it in 1953)



THE CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The oldest school building in use in
Red Deer.

Formally opened on October 10 , 1907.

Cost: \$35,000.00

Eight classrooms and an Assembly Hall.

CHAPTER IV
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
THE SCHOOLS

"As the matter of education is one of vital importance to persons who contemplate removing with their families into a new country, we have deemed it advisable to give a synopsis of the school law of the North-West Territories. It will readily appear that both the Dominion and Territorial Governments are fully alive to the importance of the subject by furnishing every possible facility for the organization of schools even in very sparsely settled localities, and granting exceptionally liberal aid to the local boards entrusted with their management."¹

This statement shows the attitude of the authorities towards schools, and in Ontario, from which so many of the Red Deer settlers came, respect for education was very strong. In October, 1886 they established the first school between Calgary and Edmonton. Because the development of the school system reflects to a great degree the progress of the general community, the changes and improvements in the schools indicate the growth of Central Alberta from a pioneer stage to a mature state.

The first teacher was George W. Smith, a young man from Nova Scotia. He had seven pupils,

1. Appendix to Six Years' Experience as a Farmer in the Red Deer District, Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1890

five from the Gaetz family and two from the McClelland home at Red Deer Crossing. In all Alberta only the schools at Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge were formed earlier than the Red Deer Central Protestant Public School District Number 104 of the North-West Territories.² Because the Gaetz family alone had ten children of school age, that is, between the ages of five and twenty,³ the district easily met the requirements as to the minimum number of children who had to be resident in an area not greater than five miles by four miles before a district could be legally formed. Financing was not a major problem for the first school board, which consisted of Dr. Gaetz, William Kemp and the teacher, G.W. Smith, because the grants were to be equal to seventy-five per cent of the salary paid a first-class teacher, seventy per cent for a second-class teacher, and sixty-five per cent for a teacher with a third-class certificate. As there were few expenses other than the teacher's salary, the burden on the local ratepayers was not heavy.

This first school building in the vast area of Central Alberta was a log structure built by the

2. Government of Alberta; op. cit., p.2

3. North-West Territories School Ordinance,
Section 90

settlers themselves at no charge for labor. Almost all the furniture in it was home-made, while the teaching equipment provided consisted of a few old maps and a box of chalk. For books the pupils had only the varied assortment which the settlers had brought with them. The children studied the traditional reading, writing and arithmetic, plus geography, history and grammar for the older pupils. In presenting the material and in deciding promotions the teacher followed as closely as possible the Ontario program of studies.

Grants were paid to this Crossing School, as it was commonly called, although for the first seven years organization on the local level was very informal. The written records have been lost, and the first minute book begins with an entry for January, 1893, headed "The First Meeting of the Red Deer Central Protestant Public School District", but the trustees acknowledged the earlier organization by assuring Miss Margaret Duncan that her salary for the preceding year would be paid as soon as government grants were received and arrears of taxes were collected. Although the amount of her salary for 1892 is not stated, the Board offered her \$450, payable quarterly, for 1893. This custom of paying the teacher quarterly was widely followed in the West because

4. Mina P. Cole; The First Red Deer School
(Essay, 1953)

the government grants were paid on that basis.⁵

In the original log building the older pupils did the caretaking, but after 1891 when the school moved to the hamlet on the railway the trustees engaged James Gaetz as janitor at a salary of one dollar and fifty cents per month. His duties were enumerated briefly but effectively: "Sweep out the schoolroom every day after school hours, dust the room in the morning, and build fires when necessary."⁶

In 1893 four people received salaries from the school district. They were the teacher, the janitor, the assessor, who received fifteen dollars, and the secretary-treasurer, who received thirty dollars. The secretary-treasurer seems to have been well paid for comparatively light duties, and the assessor underpaid for his work in levying and collecting the taxes.

In July, 1893 the secretary entered in the minutes some statistics which help to give a picture of school affairs in a small Western village sixty years ago. In the term from April to June school was open for sixty-two days. Although twenty-two pupils were on the register, the average daily attendance was only 12.27, or less than sixty per cent. In Standard Five, which was the highest grade taught,

5. North-West Territories School Ordinance

6. Red Deer Public School District; Minute Book,
April, 1893

there were three pupils, all members of the Gaetz family. In that year the summer holidays were only the first two weeks of August.

In that same summer the trustees decided that they should avoid any suggestion that the school was denominational in nature. They, therefore, petitioned that the corporate name of the district be changed to omit the word "Protestant". Their request was granted.

Tenders submitted for the erection of a two-room brick school give an indication of building costs in 1893. The lowest bid was \$1,650, or \$825 per room. By way of contrast costs in 1954 amount to twenty thousand dollars per room for even the plainest construction. In 1893 the trustees were more farsighted than later school authorities for they built two rooms, although they actually needed only one to care for the school population of the village.

Whenever they needed any professional people the citizens of Red Deer always thought first of Ontario. Accordingly, in November the Board placed the following advertisement in the Toronto Globe: "Male teacher, married, for Red Deer Public School District for 1894. Give qualifications, age, experience

and references. Salary not to exceed \$60 per month. George W. Greene, Secretary, Red Deer, Alta. "The advertisement brought results, and Mr. Charles Egglestone was appointed teacher," provided he brings his family here.⁷ The custom of advertising in Eastern papers for teachers was not confined to Red Deer, but was practised by the majority of Alberta school districts for many years. It was a symptom of the chronic teacher shortage which has prevailed throughout the province's history except for a decade beginning in 1930. In the early years many male teachers who came to the West soon left teaching to take out homesteads or to engage in business, while the young women either returned to the East, or married shortly after their arrival in the community. In addition to Ontario, Nova Scotia was an important source of teachers. In 1954 school boards have gone even farther afield and have sought teachers in Britain.

In the 1890's the annual school meetings were held at ten o'clock in the morning because the merchants and other business people had practically no customers in the forenoons. The Red Deer annual meeting for 1894 was typical of these gatherings. Reports showed that fifteen girls and

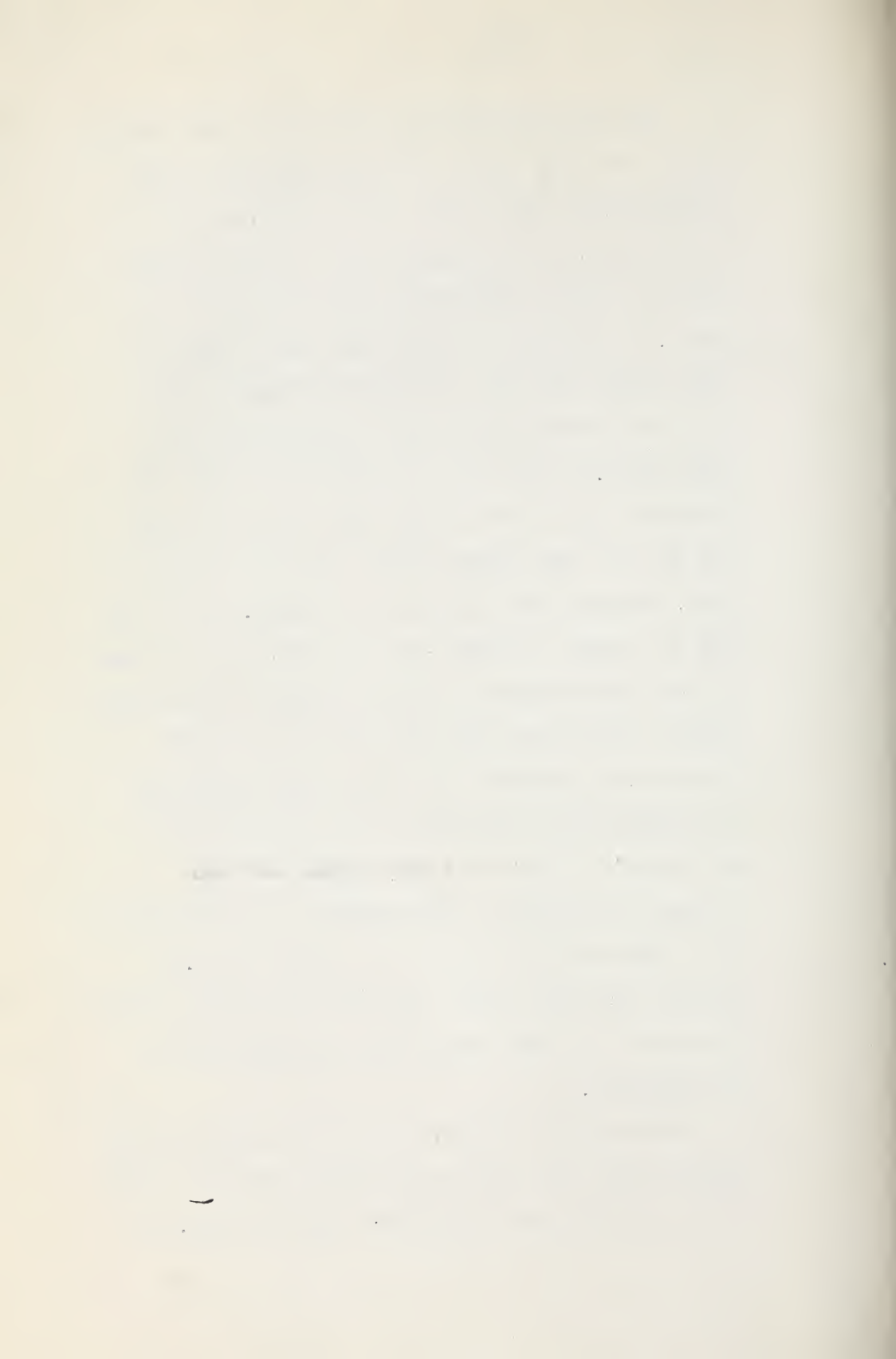
7. Red Deer School Board; Minute Book, December, 1893

ten boys attended the school during the preceding year, with an average attendance of seventeen. Receipts from all sources amounted to \$1,400. The taxation rate was 2.75 mills on an assessment of \$167,000. Reasonably prosperous conditions had prevailed with the result that arrears of taxes amounted to only \$21.15. The school furniture must have been very simple for it was given a valuation of only \$21.15. Although classes were being held in a room above the Burch store, the trustees assured the ratepayers that a two-room school would soon be built.

In carrying out their building program the Board purchased from Dr. Gaetz a site which measured 275 feet by 250 feet. For this land, which was the first part of the Central School grounds to be acquired, the trustees paid the small amount of \$250. Because land titles in the North-West Territories were often uncertain, the Crossing school had been built on an unused road allowance. Incidentally, even to-day the School Board owns the Central School property under six different titles, and as some of these transfers are rather vaguely worded, confusion has sometimes arisen over boundaries between school property and city property.

The Board decided to build this first school within the city limits of brick from the Piper brickyard. For architects they turned, as was to be expected, to Ontario, and for a fee of thirty dollars hired a Brockville firm to prepare the plans. The Trustees decided that they should be very strict with the contractor, deducting from his price five dollars for every day over the time limit. If the delay exceeded two weeks the deduction was to be at the rate of ten dollars per day for the entire period over the promised date. Plumbing and heating were simple. A well was dug at a cost of twenty-two dollars, and ten cords of wood were bought at three dollars a cord, which seems a very high price for fuel in a wooded district. By September the school was ready, and the people were apparently well satisfied with the Board's efforts for the annual meeting passed a resolution congratulating the Trustees on their admirable selection of a school site. No comment was made on the fact that the mover of the resolution was the man who had sold the land to the district.

Although it contained only two rooms, the new building was two storeys in height because a high, narrow building was considered easy to heat. The



improvements in heating methods and in insulating materials are strikingly shown by the changes in school architecture. In 1954 three schools were completed in the city of Red Deer. All of these are of one-floor construction and have very large window areas, but even in very cold weather these buildings can be kept comfortably warm. In the first brick school, which was demolished in 1928, classes sometimes had to be dismissed because of the cold.

In the 1894 school the upper room was not needed for classroom purposes. The Board, therefore, attempted to rent it for other uses at the following scale of fees:

Court sessions - five dollars per day

Concerts and plays - five dollars per night

Church concerts and charitable entertainments -
three dollars, cash

Public meetings - five dollars per day, or
three dollars per half day

Private societies (privileged to meet fifteen
times a year) - thirty dollars

School interests suffered when the upper room was used for court purposes because the teacher was instructed that he should dismiss school whenever

witnesses were put out of court. The witnesses might then wait in the lower room.

Hard times prevailed in the West in 1896, and these conditions were reflected in the attempt of the Board to reduce the teacher's salary from six hundred and fifty dollars which he had received in the preceding year. In this first salary dispute in the Red Deer schools the teacher was successful. The Trustees first informed Mr. Egglestone that if he did not accept their terms he was "at liberty to better himself as he saw fit, and the Board could do the same"⁸. The Board made an attempt to secure a second-class teacher, but without success, and finally had to re-engage Mr. Eggleton at his former rate of salary. Times really were difficult for the settlers, one man agreeing to supply the school with wood for seventy cents per cord. Previously the Board had paid three dollars a cord for fuel.

By 1899 immigration to Central Alberta was increasing, necessitating the opening of the second room in the school. It had taken thirteen years for the Red Deer settlement to increase to a size that required a two-room school; growth had certainly not been rapid. Miss Hettie Keast of Innisfail became the first principal in the Red Deer school system, with

Miss Edna Stewart of Penhold as her assistant. Miss Stewart had obtained her education in the West, being one of the students who had attended the old log school at Red Deer Crossing.

The problem of non-resident pupils first came before the Board in 1899. Settlers wanted to have their children live in the village and attend school there until schools were established in the rural districts where the parents were developing homesteads. The Trustees set the reasonable fee of fifty cents per family per month for non-residents. As the years went by the number of outsiders attending the local schools gradually increased. By 1954 about five hundred non-resident pupils attended the Composite High School, paying fees of one hundred and fifty dollars per year each. Dormitory accommodation for about four hundred students is provided on the school grounds, and many children find private boarding places.

Salaries for 1901 give some indication of the income level in a small town at the beginning of the century. The principal received six hundred and sixty dollars, and his assistant four hundred and eighty. The secretary's salary was relatively high, being one hundred dollars per year. The janitor

received six dollars per month .In spite of the low salaries the Board had several applications for teaching positions.Mr.A.T.Stephenson,for many years City Commissioner,came to Red Deer in 1902 as the school principal.He had a staff of two other teachers,the growth of the town necessitating an addition to the original building.The Trustees even felt that the time had come to consider opening a "Department of High School"⁹. The Central Alberta community had passed beyond the first pioneering stage in which the struggle for existence made it impossible for families to provide more than elementary schooling for their children.The estimates indicate a considerable increase in the money available for educational purposes.Expenditures for 1903 were \$5,200,or about two and one-half times what they had been in 1902.

In 1904 W.J.McLean was hired as principal for a salary of eight hundred dollars a year.He had three assistant teachers who were paid six hundred dollars per year.The enrolment, which was one hundred and seventy,showed a considerable increase over the preceding year,but the average attendance of seventy per cent was poor by modern standards.Mr.McLean,

who remained in charge of the Red Deer schools until 1910, is widely remembered in Central Alberta for his work in encouraging sports among the school children. He became an inspector of schools for the Department of Education, and in that capacity did much to promote the organization of track and field events. In 1954 the City Council suggested to the Trustees that the school athletic field might be named Mclean Field in his honor.

In 1904 the Board decided to launch a campaign to improve cleanliness in the buildings and among the children. The caretaker received strict orders to keep all parts of the room scrupulously clean or deductions would be made from his salary. A resolution was sent to the principal: "The teachers are instructed to examine into the cleanliness of the children in their rooms, and any pupils found to be in an unclean state are to be requested to remain at home until
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fit to come to school."

In August, 1905 the secretary made the following entry in the minutes: "Friday, the first day of September being the inauguration day of the province of Alberta, is declared by this Board to be a public holiday in the school, and the teachers are requested

to bring to the attention of the pupils the importance of that day." In the half century since that entry was made education in the province has changed greatly. In Red Deer, for example, there are one hundred classrooms instead of four. Practically all urban students and many rural students attend high school. The program which in 1905 offered only academic courses now provides for the student who is not academically inclined. He may in Red Deer study Woodworking, Automotives, Metal Work, Electricity, Agriculture, Typewriting, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Fabrics and Dressmaking and Foods and Nutrition. Probably the greatest change in the half century is in the attitude of the children. In 1905 many children, especially among the boys, attended only because they were forced. Now the average pupil likes to attend school.

By 1906 the population of the district had increased to such an extent that a much larger school was needed. The Board, therefore, decided to provide an eight-room school at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars, repayable in thirty annual instalments. Until this building was ready accommodation was secured in the Opera House, as the theatre was called in Red Deer, as in almost all other Western

towns of 1906. The Red Deer building was in such poor condition that the Trustees soon declared that they refused to continue to rent it because of its unsound and dangerous state.¹¹ Fortunately the new school was ready for occupancy by the fall, with the formal opening taking place on October 10, 1907. The prominent people who were invited to the ceremonies were Honorable A.C. Rutherford, Premier and Minister of Education, D.S. McKenzie, his Deputy, Honorable W.H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works, Honorable C.W. Cross, Attorney General, and School Inspector Boyce. The building was considered to be very satisfactory, and both Olds and Hardisty asked to copy the plans. From a modern standpoint it had certain faults and even dangers. It was three stories in height, with four classrooms on each of the first two floors and an assembly hall on the third floor. Because small boys might clamber up them, the fire escapes ended about seven or eight feet from the ground. Fortunately no fires ever occurred or a terrible disaster might have been the result. The building was of very substantial construction with a foundation of the local stone and very heavy brick walls. Renovated and made safer, it is still in use.

In 1909 an epidemic of small pox swept through

Central Alberta. The Trustees insisted that all children attending the school be vaccinated at the expense of the Board. If a parent refused to have his child given this protection, the pupil was excluded from the school. Since 1933 periodic examinations of all children in the Central Alberta area have been made by the Full-Time Health Unit. Immunization against certain diseases is part of the program, but the children are given the vaccination and inoculation only on the written consent of the parent. During the influenza epidemic of 1918 the city Board again instituted a compulsory inoculation program, but the serum did not prove to be at all effective, and the schools had to be closed.

From time to time the problem of religious instruction in the public schools has arisen in Red Deer, as it has in many other Alberta communities. In 1909 the Red Deer Board adopted a policy which has been followed since that time. When a local minister requested permission to carry on religious instruction in the classes, the Board passed the following resolution: "This Board is not in favor of devoting any portion of the school day to religious instruction in a public school." Although the Trustees received¹²

considerable criticism for their stand at the time, the majority of ratepayers then and now support them in their attitude.

In 1909 the Board hired A.R. Gibson as an assistant for W.J. McLean. Salaries for the year ranged from eleven hundred dollars for the principal to six hundred dollars for the lowest paid assistant teacher. Mr. Gibson, who had a distinguished career as an officer in the First Great War, became a school inspector soon after his return from overseas. He retired from the position of superintendent in the Lamont division in 1952.

The rapid growth in the population continued, and the new school itself soon became inadequate for the needs of the town. The old school of 1894 had not been used for classes after 1907 because it lacked wiring, plumbing and satisfactory heating. The Trustees decided that the demand for classrooms was so great that they should attempt to renovate the old four-room structure. Cement buttresses were erected to keep the building from falling down, and it served as a high school until 1928, when it was torn down and replaced by an eight-room structure.

In 1910 the idea of centralization began to develop and it was suggested that Waskasoo, Clearview, Balmoral and Crossroads, all rural districts, might

amalgamate with the town. In the Red Deer area, however, the idea of the small, autonomous district had been brought from Ontario by the first settlers and consolidation had little appeal. In 1953 another attempt was made at centralization as a means of overcoming the teacher shortage, but it met with strong opposition. The conservative tradition of the area makes the people slow in approving changes in educational administration.

During 1911 and 1912 the boom gathered strength, forcing the Board to build small schools in the north and south parts of the town. Coupled with this expansion program was a novel proposal which might have had far-reaching effects in Alberta towns. Along with the by-law to borrow money for the South School the Board grouped a proposal to raise funds to build a teachers' residence on the school grounds. Rural schools often provided small buildings called teacherages for their teachers, but urban districts had not done so, at least not on the scale planned by Red Deer. The by-law passed, but apparently the need for a teachers' apartment house was not as great as had been thought for the Board quietly dropped the idea.

In 1912 there was a desire to give specialized instruction in certain subjects, and the Board hired

Mrs. John Quigg, not a teacher but a musician of considerable ability, to give special lessons in music through the schools. This was the first instance of special instruction being given in the Red Deer schools in a cultural subject. Succeeding Boards carried on the policy until the Department of Education in 1942 insisted that the Trustees employ only people who had Alberta teachers' certificates. By that date, however, the ruling did not cause difficulty because many qualified teachers in the province were also specialists in music.

By 1913 teachers' salaries had risen considerably over the amounts paid in former years. The principal received nineteen hundred dollars and the highest paid assistant twelve hundred. The other teachers received varying amounts, but none less than nine hundred dollars. However, by June evidence of the collapse of the boom showed in school affairs when the Trustees asked the City Council to pay them weekly as collected the school's share of the taxes. If the Council failed to grant this request, the Board would apply to the courts for a receiver. With the hope of preventing drastic reductions in their wages the teachers offered to take a reduction of five per cent in their salaries for 1914. More severe cuts were actually made, and by

1915 the principal's salary was down to fifteen hundred dollars. Throughout the war years the prevailing note was economy in all school matters, with the result that in 1917 educational costs were six thousand dollars less than they had been in 1913.

A brief entry in the fall of 1918 helps to recall the terrible outbreak of influenza which swept through Western Canada as well as many other parts of the world. "Owing to the epidemic influenza, all schools under the jurisdiction of this Board will be closed until further notice,"¹³ Many people in Central Alberta died of the disease, and the schools were not able to open until the end of January, 1919. The teachers won commendation from the Board by volunteering to help care for victims of the disease, which often swept through whole families, leaving no one to keep fires in the house or to care for the bedridden. In a vain attempt to check the spread of the germs both children and adults were compelled to wear cheesecloth pads over the mouth and nostrils when on the street or in any public place.

A desire to introduce technical training developed just after the First Great War, but the problem of finance defeated the project. The scheme suggested was

13. Minute Book, October 20, 1918

one which was adopted in many parts of Alberta in later years, that is, technical teachers would travel between Red Deer and Lacombe, offering instruction in Lacombe two days a week and in Red Deer three days per week. When it was estimated that a building in which manual training and domestic science could be taught would cost Red Deer about thirty thousand dollars, the Trustees dropped the project. It was not until 1937 that instruction in these subjects was actually offered. In 1947 with the opening of the Composite High School Red Deer became a centre for technical training at the high-school level.

"The more things change, the more they are the same." Any one who has had more than casual contact with the school system has heard many complaints about the deterioration in the conduct of the students. In 1922 Principal Locke complained that pupils were attending dances and loitering around the rink or the streets until very late hours. The Trustees met the problem with a resolution: "We deplore the fact that some of the school children are allowed to attend dances until the small hours of the morning, which unfits them for doing proper work in school to the detriment of the whole school. It is unfair to the school and to the teachers. When school is being carried

on at such a cost to many ratepayers, the parents should do their part to assist." The effect of the resolution on the young people of 1922 is not on record.

In 1922 Joseph Welsh was engaged at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars to teach Grade VIII and to act as principal of the public school. Mr. Welsh retired in June, 1954. Eight hundred people attended the ceremonies in honor of his thirty-one years of service. A unique feature was a roll call of class representatives for each year from 1923 to 1954. In some cases father and son or mother and daughter were in the group. No more striking way of showing the influence which one man has had on the development of the community could possibly have been devised.¹⁴

Building costs in the year Mr. Welsh came on the staff compared with building costs in the year he retired are a good example of the inflation which has come in that time. In 1923 architects estimated that an eight-room, one-storey structure, with an assembly hall and two additional rooms in the basement, would cost fifty-eight thousand dollars, while a ten-room, two storey school, with an assembly hall and two extra science laboratories, would cost seventy-eight thousand dollars. Similar buildings in 1954 were estimated at a minimum of three hundred thousand dollars.

14. See appendix for program

Unfortunately the Trustees in 1923 did not take advantage of the low construction costs to obtain needed extra accommodation or to replace obsolete buildings. Much of the resistance to expansion came from a well organized economy group who succeeded in defeating Mr. R.L. Gaetz, who as chairman had favored improving school facilities as much as possible.

Mr. Gaetz had been intimately associated with the Red Deer schools from the formation of the district in 1886 until his retirement from the Board in 1924. As a very young man he helped to build the log school at Red Deer Crossing, and actually did most of the School Board work for his father who was nominally chairman of the Board. Raymond himself became chairman in 1893. A strong supporter of the teachers, and a vigorous opponent of those who in his own words "drove to School Board meetings in the most expensive cars, and then scrutinized with the greatest care every penny spent on education", he was typical of many men who have given generously of their time and effort to prove that democratic control of Alberta schools is to the advantage of the community. Mr. Gaetz had a quiet humor which often served to expose sham, as shown in the following true anecdote. A man who was very anxious to obtain the position of principal of the schools

decided to make a personal appeal to Mr. Gaetz. He visited him and outlined his qualifications. Mr. Gaetz stated that they would be pleased to consider his application at the School Board meeting that evening, and suggested that the man appear before the Board. During the afternoon the prospective principal visited the Leonard Gaetz Memorial Methodist Church, and promptly rushed back to Mr. Gaetz. "Sir, I forgot to tell you that I have been a strong Methodist all my life." To this Mr. Gaetz quietly replied, "Thank you for telling me. However, if your other qualifications are as good as you say they are, I am sure that the other members of the Board and I will not hold it against you."

During the first four years after Mr. Gaetz's retirement the Board sought by one means or another to find accommodation for the increasing school population without having to spend money on building. Classes grew larger and larger until the High School Inspector stated that the overcrowding was making the Red Deer school one of the poorest in the province. In a community which had prided itself on maintaining high educational standards this report proved sufficient to start the Trustees planning a new school, which was opened in 1928 with Ralph Whitney as principal. The enrolment for that year was 675, with 174 in high school.

Teachers' salaries just before the depression were not high, but were sufficient to permit the teachers to have a reasonably good standard of living in a small community. The principal of the high school received two thousand five hundred dollars, while the principal of the public school received one thousand dollars less. High school assistant teachers had salaries of from sixteen to eighteen hundred dollars, and public school teachers were paid from one thousand to twelve hundred. The Board had no trouble in filling vacancies, indicating that the salaries they offered were comparable with those paid elsewhere. Other salaried positions in Red Deer at the time were as follows: postal clerks, sixty to seventy dollars a month; warehousemen, seventy dollars a month; stenographers, fifty to sixty dollars a month; clerks in stores, sixty to one hundred dollars a month; provincial government road engineer, two hundred dollars a month; bank juniors, forty dollars a month.

During the early 1930's the depression affected the schools in many ways. Because jobs were hard to obtain, the high school enrolment actually rose, although this was offset by a fall in the public school classes. The total enrolment for 1937 showed an increase of only one student over the 1928 figures, but the high school

had increased from 174 to 251. In 1937 more rural people wanted secondary education for their children, and non-resident pupils numbered sixty-four compared with fifteen in 1928. Another result of the depression was the severe cutting of salaries, although they did not fall in Red Deer as much as they did in many other Alberta communities. High school teachers were engaged for twelve hundred dollars and public school teachers for nine hundred. Even at the lower salaries the number of applicants was much greater than it had been in pre-depression years. For one vacancy on the public school staff the Board received sixty-eight applications from experienced teachers, some of whom stated that they were willing to accept any salary which the Trustees cared to set. ¹⁵ In the rural districts salaries were often cut even when there was no need of reducing them, as in the case of one district which offered its teacher six hundred dollars, although it had in the bank sufficient money to pay the legal minimum of eight hundred and forty dollars without levying any taxes. In other districts the rate of salary in the contract made little difference because the teacher received only the government grant. In the Red Deer area, as elsewhere in the province these conditions had certain lasting results. In the

first place many young people decided not to take teacher training at the conclusion of their high school, and in the second place many trained teachers made up their minds to leave the profession at the earliest opportunity. The origins of the teacher shortage of the 1950's are found in the 1930's. In the third place the depression gave point to the Honorable Perrin Baker's argument of 1928 that the larger school unit was a necessity. Therefore, when the Aberhart government imposed the school divisions, the opposition in the Red Deer area, which had condemned the Baker plan, was not strong. In January, 1939 the Red Deer School Division Number 35, an amalgamation of sixty rural school districts, was established. The city district, Red Deer Number 104, is not in the Division.

In the fall of 1940 Red Deer became one of the first of the smaller centres to establish a Junior High School as a distinct unit within the school system. Prior to that date the division in Red Deer had been eight grades in public school and four grades in high school. Under the new scheme of things grades one to six became the elementary school, grades seven to nine the intermediate or junior high school, and grades ten to twelve the high school. The change had been authorized throughout the province in 1936, but it could not be established in Red Deer until a new building

was available.

The Second Great War had two effects on the Red Deer schools. In the first place enrolment rose steadily, reaching one thousand and sixty by 1945. In the second place the Board was forced to abandon a rule against the employment of married women as teachers. In 1954 in both the City and Divisional schools married women form a considerable portion of the teaching staff. The same tendency is apparent throughout the province.

From the standpoint of Alberta generally one of the most significant changes which Red Deer has made has been the establishment of the Composite High School, which was started in 1947 in buildings which the Red Deer Division purchased from the Department of National Defence. The term "Composite" is very fitting because the students come from all parts of the province, with the majority from Red Deer city, Red Deer rural and the Rocky Mountain House School Division. The program offered is very extensive. A student may select a straight academic program leading to university entrance, or he may avail himself of a very wide range of technical and commercial subjects.

In 1949 the school decided to introduce a semester system under which a student would study

two or three subjects intensively for three and one-third months, write his examinations at the end of that time, and then register for another group of subjects. The scheme proved to be very popular and successful, especially with students who required only one or two subjects to secure their high school diplomas. So great a demand was made on the school facilities that a rule had to be adopted that students from the four larger cities could not be accepted unless there were special circumstances pertaining to their requirements. The second part of the experiment was that the costs of the school were defrayed on a fee basis. A payment of fifty dollars a semester had to be made either by the student's parents or by the district from which he came. Red Deer city decided to pay fees for all its high school students rather than to operate a school of its own. The fees vary from year to year as costs change, but there has been a persistent rise from 1949 to 1954. The fees now are fifty-eight dollars a semester.

The Red Deer success brought requests from other centres for permission to adopt a similar plan. The Department of Education, however, has decided that it will grant other places permission to introduce a two-term plan, but not a three-term one as in Red Deer. The reason for this decision seems to be mainly the

difficulty of setting and marking departmental papers three times a year. Mount Royal College and Alberta College studied the Red Deer system and introduced a two-term plan in 1953. Should a semester system be widely adopted in Alberta, the credit for the change belongs to the Red Deer Composite School, and especially to R.L. Whitney, Red Deer principal from 1926 to 1950, who pressed for its introduction. Credit should also go to Doctor Lindsay Thurber, former superintendent of schools, after whom the new school building has been named. Mr. D.C. Dandell, the present principal, was appointed to that position in 1950.

In addition to the public schools there is the Red Deer Separate School District Number 47. The school for this unit has been operated for many years by St. Joseph's Convent, which was established by the Sisters of Wisdom, a French order, in 1908, the same year that the separate school district was formed. In 1954 the Separate School Board began the construction of a school adjacent to the Composite High School. The Convent has accommodation for twenty boys and fifty-five girls as boarders, and in the past many Protestant families in Central Alberta sent children there because there were no other dormitory facilities available. The Sisters offer instruction in the work

of grades one to twelve.

The Sisters of Wisdom selected Red Deer as the site for their convent because of the central location. Relations between the Roman Catholic and Protestant people of the community were very good in 1908, and Dr. Parsons, for example, donated his professional services to care for any illnesses among the pupils. In the early 1930's there was a brief period of tension when an attempt was made to form a Ku Klux Klan in Red Deer. On one occasion some of the more excitable members of this group planted a fiery cross in front of the convent, but the people of the community condemned actions of this kind strongly. Since that time there have been no unpleasant incidents. The separate and public schools work together in harmony.

The Canadian Nazarene College began operations in 1930. In addition to theological courses it offers instruction in academic and commercial subjects from grade nine to grade twelve. The enrolment of 165 is drawn from almost all Western Canada. The college has boarding facilities for about eighty students. This school is not tax supported but depends on contributions¹⁶ from the Nazarene Church and fees paid by the students.

16. Government of Alberta; op. cit., p. 12

The Presbyterians also made an attempt to operate in Red Deer a school that would serve the needs of their membership in the province. In 1912 they built a Presbyterian Ladies' College on a ten-acre site which Henry Jamison, an early settler, donated to them. Their building, which is of very substantial brick construction, cost \$75,000, mostly raised by subscription in the town and district. The college, however, failed to attract sufficient students to warrant keeping it open, and in 1916 the building was sold to the province. It became the nucleus for the Provincial Training School for mentally defective
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children.

In the seventy years of their history the schools in and around Red Deer have reflected the conservative tendencies of the people of the area. In Alberta the curriculum is imposed on the schools by the Department of Education, which permits a minimum of deviation from the prescribed courses. The people of an area may only make their wishes known in educational matters by the rather indirect method of political action. To the extent that they have local control the people of Red Deer have favored formal methods of instruction, and have regarded with some suspicion such innovations as the enterprise and guidance. Although conservative

they are not reactionary, and in the semester system they have experimented with a method which may affect the province as a whole. The change, which concerns itself with methods rather than with the contents or philosophy of the program of studies, is certainly not a radical one. It is, therefore, in keeping with the other aspects of Red Deer's development.



THE KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1898 - 1954



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

1899 -

A good example of the use of local
building stone



LEONARD GAETZ UNITED CHURCH

Opened in April, 1910 as the
Leonard Gaetz Methodist Church.

THE CHURCHES

The Ontario influence in the Red Deer district was a guarantee that the Methodist Church would play an important part in the religious life of the community. Other than Dr. Gaetz, the first resident minister of any denomination was Mr. William Vrooman, a student missionary of the Methodist Church, who in the spring of 1886 established himself in the old McPherson cabin. His field was an extensive one, covering all the central part of the present province of Alberta. He had no church in which to hold services, but conducted them in the school or in the homes of the settlers. His services were attended by people of all denominations, and were a welcome break in their isolated, monotonous
18
lives. In the summer of 1887 another student missionary, James Buchanan of the Presbyterian Church, began to hold services at the Crossing. Beginning in 1888 Bishop Pinkham of the Anglican Church visited Red Deer periodically to perform marriages or conduct baptisms. In the same year Roman Catholic priests started coming to the Crossing to serve adherents of their faith.

With the coming of the railway and the consequent increase in the number of settlers, consideration was given to the matter of a church building. The Methodists in 1891 established the first church in Red Deer,

18. Annie L. Gaetz; op. cit., p. 37

building it on what is now 51 Street. It still stands, although greatly altered, and is to-day the Code mill. Although nominally a Methodist Church, in the early years it was used by other groups also. For example, in 1895 the Presbyterians held the morning service, the Methodists the evening worship, and there was a Union Sunday School in the afternoon.

By 1909 the growth in population had been great enough to warrant the building of a new and larger Methodist Church. This was opened for services in ¹⁹April, 1910. For many years this building, which had the largest seating capacity of any church in the central part of the province, served as an assembly hall for public meetings, concerts and other entertainments. In honor of the founder of the city the church was named the Leonard Gaetz Memorial Methodist (United) Church.

Originally the Red Deer cemetery belonged to the Methodist Church. In 1893 John Gaetz donated a portion of his land to the church for that purpose. Although nominally under the control of the Methodist group, the cemetery was used for burials of people of all faiths, and in 1907 the church transferred the title to the municipality of Red Deer. After the town

acquired possession one portion of the land was set aside for Roman Catholic burials, but that has been the only attempt to have any part reserved for a particular denomination.

In 1925 the Methodists in Red Deer voted in favor of church union, and their building became the Leonard Gaetz Memorial United Church. The Presbyterians, influenced strongly by the Reverend Walter Brown, an outstanding opponent of church union, decided to continue as a separate congregation. In the Red Deer United Church to-day the former Methodist group is by far the largest.

The Presbyterians have always been an important group in Central Alberta. In 1898, when the village population was only about one hundred and twenty-five in all, the Presbyterians built the north part of the present-day Knox Church, adding to the building later. The old church, which has been a landmark for many years, stands in a commercial section of the town, and in 1953 was sold to make the land available for business buildings. The Presbyterians have started construction of a new church near the United Church. W.P. Code, a member of a pioneer family, was present at the ceremonies in 1898 when sod was broken for the original church, and was present in 1954 when the new

20
project started.

In a community in which the majority of the people are of British descent the Anglican Church has many adherents. In 1899 Canon Hinchcliffe began construction of a church building, drawing the plans himself and even doing a good deal of the actual work of building. Local sandstone was used, giving the church a decidedly Old-World appearance. On one occasion in the 1920's a picture of this church was used as an illustration of a mediaeval building.

A fourth Protestant group, the Baptists, built their church in 1905. They had previously held their services in a room above one of the stores.

The Roman Catholics did not have a church in Red Deer until 1905, when they built a small one in the south part of the town. In 1908 St. Joseph's Convent increased the importance of Red Deer for people of the Roman Catholic faith, but they remained a small minority in the town and district. In 1934 a larger church was built on the former H.H. Gaetz property on 55 Street.

The changes in the racial groups have been well illustrated in church affairs after the Second Great War. Immigration from the Netherlands has led to the building of a Dutch Reformed Church at

Red Deer and another at Rocky Mountain House.

Lutherans from the Baltic states have established a small church, and the Latter Day Saints are acquiring land for a building. The Church of the Nazarene, which in 1920 was a very small congregation, has become one of the largest of the Protestant groups in the district. The Pentecostal Tabernacle, the Missionary Alliance Tabernacle and the church of the Plymouth Brethren are other examples of the diversity now found in the Red Deer area. Many of the adherents of these churches are people who have been converted to those beliefs after coming to Western Canada, but the influence of immigrants from the United States has been another important influence. The Ontario and British traditions have weakened with the passing of the years.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A quick assessment of the cultural development in an area may be made by visiting the Public Library, if one is available. The accession lists, circulation lists and addresses and occupations of the subscribers reveal much about the people of the community. Consideration should be given to the method by which the library was established; was it a gift, or did it come from the efforts of the people themselves? One should find out if the library is supported by self-imposed local taxation, or if it depends upon grants and gifts.

For forty years the Red Deer Public Library, which was the third to be established in the province, has played an important part in the life of the people of Central Alberta. The Legislative Assembly passed a Public Libraries Act in 1907, and at once W. J. McLean, principal of the school, and J. F. Boyce, school inspector, began to urge their fellow citizens to take advantage of this statute. Interested people formed a committee which collected information on the formation of libraries and enlisted the support of local organizations, including the Board of Trade, which promised the committee that the Board of Trade office in the City Hall might be used for library

quarters. By the closing days of 1913 plans were sufficiently definite to enable the committee to ask for a pledge of financial support from the City Council. The next step was to secure signatures of ratepayers on a petition. Not only did the committee easily secure a large number of signatures, but they also obtained pledges of four hundred dollars in support of the project. The City Council then drafted a by-law which the electors approved by a large majority. In the spring of 1914 the Red Deer Public Library opened its doors, with J.F. Boyce, who had done so much work in promoting the project, as chairman of the board and H.H. Gaetz as secretary. The members of the board are not elected but are appointed by the City Council.

At first the library limited its circulation to the Red Deer School District, but after the supply became larger books could be borrowed by anyone living in Central Alberta. Sylvan Lake residents, for example, made good use of the Red Deer Library. In 1952 a regional library was established in Lacombe, and this has decreased the demands made on the Red Deer institution.

In 1954 the library has about twelve thousand volumes, well balanced between fiction and reference

material. About one hundred and fifty dollars per month can be spent on new books. Although the province makes a small grant, most of the revenue comes from taxes levied in the City of Red Deer. The first minute book begins with the hope that the Public Library would be "a centre from which will radiate an elevating influence, not only in the city, but in the surrounding district." In the forty years which have elapsed since that entry was made the Red Deer Public Library has fulfilled the hopes of its founders.

THE ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

About 1901 Dr. Henry George of Innisfail began to collect material for an Alberta Natural History Museum which he established as a sideline to his small medical practice. Naturalists throughout Alberta heard of his venture and often visited the little museum. The interest of others was great enough to persuade Dr. George to organize a small group of nature lovers like himself. This little organization took the title "The Alberta Natural History Society". Their object was to promote conservation and to provide a club in which those interested in all kinds of nature study could exchange notes. From Innisfail the movement spread to Red Deer, where a branch of the society was formed in 1906, with Canon Hinchcliffe as the first president, and Dr. George, who moved to Red Deer in 1907, as the prime mover. After Dr. George left Innisfail the group there ceased to meet and Red Deer became the headquarters of the society. Branches²¹ were organized in Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge.

The Honorable G. H. V. Bulyea, first Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, became a member, as did Frank Oliver of Edmonton. The provincial government thought well enough of the scheme to make an annual grant of one hundred dollars to the Alberta Natural History

21. The Alberta Natural History Society;
Minute Book

Society, which was a source of information about such things as farm pests. The society used the grant to pay the costs of publishing scientific booklets. In March, 1918 they published a complete descriptive catalogue the Odanta or Dragonflies of Alberta, by F.C. Whitehouse, a local bank manager, who was an entomologist of considerable ability. In 1919 the society published a large and valuable Check List of Moths and Butterflies of Alberta, by Kenneth Bowman. The following year the society published an Annotated List of the Beetles of Alberta, by F.C. Carr. The three publications are still in demand among entomologists in Canada and the United States.

In addition to its publishing ventures the society persuaded the provincial government in 1922 to declare a 230-acre tract near Red Deer to be the Gaetz Lake Bird Sanctuary. In 1952 this became the Gaetz Lake Provincial Wildlife Park, with the society as custodian. The club meets several times a year and does much to promote a study and interest in nature in Central Alberta. The group is larger than either the Calgary or Edmonton societies, with which it is no longer affiliated. Kerry Wood, naturalist and writer, is an active member who has done much to

promote the work of the Alberta Natural History Society. It may be of interest to know that Mrs. George, who made hundreds of paintings of Alberta wild flowers, was the designer of the Alberta coat of arms.

THE WARS

Because the British and Ontario elements are in a majority in the community, Red Deer and district have contributed heavily to the war efforts of the Empire and Commonwealth. Three memorials honor those who served in different conflicts.

A number of young men of the district served in the South African War, and three, Charles Cruikshank, Angus Jenkins and Archibald McNichol, were killed. In 1902 Lord Strathcona offered to donate one thousand dollars to the town to erect a memorial to the three who had been members of the Strathcona Horse. ²² The people felt that a hospital should be built, as there was none between Calgary and Edmonton. They added fifteen hundred dollars which they had previously collected to Lord Strathcona's donation. Local organizations contributed generously to the building and furnishing of the hospital, which opened in 1904 with thirteen beds. It was the first hospital between Calgary and Edmonton. The facilities were not adequate for the demands made on them, and the hospital was enlarged in 1912, 1940 and 1954. Because of financial difficulties it had to be taken over by the city in 1923, becoming the Red Deer Municipal Hospital. The

22. The Red Deer Advocate; The Memorial Hospital, July, 1934

city introduced a scheme under which any resident who paid the sum of six dollars per year was entitled to hospitalization at a charge of one dollar per day. This plan proved so satisfactory that the hospital district was gradually extended to cover a very wide area around the city.

In World War I eight hundred men from Red Deer and district served in the Canadian forces, twenty-two others with the armies of France, and eleven with the British forces. Of those who served one hundred died²³ in action. Red Deer's response to the call for men was immediate. The militia unit, "A" Squadron, Central Alberta Horse, which actually had been started at Pine Lake about two years before the outbreak of war, offered to enlist as a unit.²⁴ This offer was not accepted, but on August 25 seventy-five men of the squadron left for the big camp at Valcartier, Quebec, where they were attached to other units. On November 14 sixty-four volunteers joined the 31st Battalion. During the winter of 1914-1915 the Canadian Mounted Rifles secured one hundred and fifty recruits from the town and district. In the course of the war many men joined the 63rd Battalion, the 66th, the 89th, and especially the 187th, which was regarded as Central Alberta's own battalion. Casualties were heavy

23. H. J. Snell, Secretary 1922 Memorial Committee;
oral statement

24. Lieutenant Colonel Lister; oral statement

from 1916 to the end of the war. In one week in the spring of 1917 five Red Deer men were killed and many others were wounded.

After the war was over the majority of the men who had enlisted from the town and district returned to their former homes. A few had difficulty in re-adjusting to civilian life and drifted away again. The Soldier Settlement scheme in some cases placed untrained men on overpriced land, but in general those who remained in the area succeeded in re-establishing themselves in agriculture or business. In 1922 a war memorial, which took the form of a statue of a soldier in full battle kit, was erected just north of the post office. The cenotaph and statue attracted considerable attention in Canada as an example of what a small town could do in erecting an artistic war memorial. Lord Byng of Vimy unveiled the memorial on November 15, 1922.

The First Great War had little lasting effect on the development of the town and district. There was no large immigration and the population remained predominantly Anglo-Saxon in racial origin. Over-expansion of agriculture did occur during the war years, but because clearing and breaking the land was a slow process, this expansion was not as pronounced as on the prairies.

INSCRIPTION ON THE TABLET IN THE MEMORIAL CENTRE

" IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL REMEBRANCE OF ALL THOSE
FROM RED DEER AND DISTRICT WHO SERVED IN THE WAR

1939 - 1945

THESE GAVE THEIR LIVES:

Beaton, W.	Mayberry, R.M.
Bohn, J.D.	McCullough, D.L.C.
Brothers, W.M.	McDougall, H.G.
Carscadden, C.H.	McFadden, H.D.
Carrol, B.	McGregor, D.P.
Cooper, E.	McWhithey, W.
Currie, R.E.	Mohring, J.
Dunham, W.M.G.	Murray, W.L.
Ellenwood, R.W.	Nelson, V.E.
Farrow, W.B.	Nichols, S.W.
Forrester, R.R.	Oldford, L.
Galvan, C.	Opie, A.E.
Gordon, J.A.G.	Perlick, W.G.
Groom, A.P.	Roland, R.M.
Hadley, C.	Scott, W.G.
Hall, A.L.	Sinclair, V.
Hopfe, K.	Stephenson, E.B.
Jenner, J.L.	Stringer, L.G.
Johnson, R.O.	Trussler, D.M.
Kellington, E.J.	Van Slyke, A.R.
Kirkpatrick, J.G.	Whillans, G.D.
Kirkwood, D.	White, E.R.
Langton, G.R.O.	Whyte, J.
LaRoque, G.	
Long, H.B.	
MacArthur, D.A.	

THEY WERE A WALL UNTO US BOTH BY NIGHT AND DAY.

1 Sam. 25:19 "



Tablet, Memorial Centre

On the outbreak of the Second Great War there was not the same sense of urgency as there had been in 1914. Almost everyone in the Red Deer district felt that Canada should make a maximum effort to the common cause, but the ties with Britain were not as close; most of the young men were Alberta born. Mobile recruiting units visited the region from time to time, and in 1940 the A-20 Army Camp began to train men from all parts of Canada. After the war was over some of these men settled in Central Alberta. Some Royal Air Force personnel who had trained at Penhold established homes in and around Red Deer. Of those who were residents of the district in 1939 about twelve hundred enlisted in some branch of the active forces, and most of these returned to their homes here after they received their discharges.

The majority of people desired a war memorial which would have some practical use, and suggestions were made for an elaborate civic centre, which, however, proved to be beyond the financial resources of the memorial committee. As a substitute for the more pretentious undertaking a former drill hall in the A-20 camp was altered to form an auditorium and gymnasium. The auditorium, which has a seating capacity

of eight hundred and fifty, is one of the finest in the province. Because it is available outstanding artists occasionally visit Central Alberta. For example, the Winnipeg Ballet gave two fine performances to large audiences.

The Second Great War has had important effects on the town and district. From the economic standpoint the building of the army camp and Penhold airport began a period of prosperity which has resulted in a large increase in population in Red Deer. Because many of the newcomers are of other races, the predominance of people of British and Scandinavian origin has decreased, although they are still in a large majority.²⁵ The war also counteracted the parochialism which had started to develop among the native born. Because of their war experiences hundreds of men realize that events in Europe or Asia may have a profound effect on their lives and the lives of their children in this quiet part of Alberta. Veterans' benefits made possible higher education and technical training for many men and women who otherwise could not have attended universities or technical schools.

25. A list of the Old Timers' Association members is given in the appendix. British and Scandinavian names predominate.

IN THE LIFE OF A MAN

At the graduation ceremonies of the Composite High School in 1953 the guest speaker began his address by stating that in the audience was an elderly man who as a boy had lived in Red Deer when the entire area of the present city was unbroken bushland. Young people might well consider the toil and sacrifices of the pioneers who within the life span of a man had developed a community of eleven thousand people in a valley which had been nothing but wilderness when James Gaetz was a boy. It was not a miracle but hard, persistent work by the people of Central Alberta which had brought about economic and cultural development sufficient to enable two hundred boys and girls to graduate from high school in one year. The purpose of this thesis has been to examine some aspects of that growth.

In the opinion of the writer the whole Western Canadian community grew directly from those improvements in transportation which enabled farmers on the prairies to pay carriage charges on grain and still meet the competition of European-grown wheat. In effect they exported the fertility of the Western soil. The development began south of the border, and by 1900 little free land was left in the American West. Then the homesteaders

turned to Manitoba and the North-West Territories, bringing about the development which had been expected fifteen years earlier with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As Alberta developed the growth of an important market town at some point between Calgary and Edmonton became inevitable. Red Deer, which was almost exactly midway between the two larger cities and on the main river between the Bow and the Saskatchewan, became that centre.

The community which developed was a solid, conservative town, reflecting the Ontario origin of so many of its founders. The surrounding district was fertile, but it required a great deal of work to clear and break the land, resulting in a slower expansion than in the open lands of the prairies. Mixed farming rather than grain growing or ranching guaranteed in most years a small, steady income. As the years went by the social and economic forces which have affected the world in the twentieth century slowed or accelerated the growth of Central Alberta, and at the same time the conservative nature of the people in the region exercised some steadying influence in provincial affairs. In the seventy years of its history no startling developments have



ONTARIO IN ALBERTA

An early house on 56 Street

The Ontario influence has been very important
in Red Deer.



NEW CONSTRUCTION

A bungalow built in 1952.

Red Deer's population has increased by
three hundred per cent in the last ten years.

Alberta
as part of the
North-West
Territories
1903

(Rand McNally Atlas)

Scale:
1 inch = 39 miles



occurred in the community; they would not be in accord with the nature and traditions of the people. Gradually the town has become a small city capable of providing more and more services for the people of the wide and potentially rich area about it. Loyal to the British connection, law-abiding and thrifty, Red Deer's similarity to an Ontario community such as Guelph is very striking.

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Hugh Bower, Farmer
Mrs. William Cassels, Early Settler
W.P. Code, Farmer and Miller
Dennis Cole, Town Planner
Roy Cornett, Druggist
Mrs. J.J. Gaetz
P.E. Graham, Lawyer
John Hodgkinson, Farmer
Ellis Johnson, Condensery Manager
Jacob Labb, Farmer
Lieutenant Colonel Lister
J.B. Long, Dentist
Samuel McConnell, Farmer
Elmer Mathews
H.J. Mott, School Secretary
Ernest Newman, City Clerk
Byron Northey, Farmer
C.A. Julian Sharman, Farmer
H.J. Snell, Secretary 1922 Memorial Committee
R.W.E. Tetley, Collector of Customs
R.A. Van Slyke, Farmer
R.L. Whitney, Teacher
E.A. Wood, Writer

ALBERTA, N.W.T.

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Report Of Six Years' Experience Of A Farmer

in the

R E D D E E R D I S T R I C T

by

REV. LEO. GAETZ

- - - - -

Published by the Department of Agriculture of
the Government of Canada

OTTAWA:

Printed by Brown Chamberlin, Printer to the
Queens Most Excellent Majesty

1890

RED DEER

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN ALBERTA

Committee Room 50,
House Of Commons,
Ottawa, 26th February, 1890.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this day in the Committee Room. Mr. Peter White, Renfrew, Chairman, presided.

The Chairman - Hon. Mr. Carling has suggested to me that the Rev. Leonard Gaetz, who has lived in the Red Deer River district of the North-West Territories, might be able to give the Committee some information with respect to that country.

Hon. Mr. Carling - The Rev. Leonard Gaetz, who is well known in western Canada, and whom, on account of poor health, was obliged some years ago to leave the ministry, settled in Alberta, about 100 miles north of Calgary, in the vicinity of the Red Deer River, and has become a farmer and is cultivating a large quantity of land. He brought down with him yesterday from there samples of grain that were grown in that section, and I thought the committee would be very much interested in having a description of that country, and seeing the samples of grain that were grown there.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The following is a report of the information furnished to the Committee on Colonization and Agriculture by the Rev. Leo. Gaetz, giving his personal experiences of six year's residence as a farmer in the Red Deer district of Northern Alberta. Mr. Gaetz, owing to ill-health, was obliged to resign his ministry in the Methodist Church, and in consequence he took up his residence in the locality stated.

The record of an experience of six years' farming as a settler in Northern Alberta by a man who had no experience of this mode of life presents new information which is of great interest, and which was furnished by Mr. Gaetz to the Committee with frankness.

The facts stated are proof of the pleasantness of the climate and the general conditions of living in that, at present, little known portion of the North-West, and they convey a more favourable impression of the farming resources of Northern Alberta than have been believed by many to exist.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

OTTAWA, 7th March, 1890.

Rev. Leonard Gaetz - I have the honour and privilege of appearing before you, as the hon. Minister of Agriculture stated, through a kind suggestion of his own. I may say here that I once had the privilege of preaching, not at but to the Hon. Mr. Carling in the city of London, and he was a kindly friend then, and I believe, continues to be, and from his intelligent devotion to his Department he has won the hearts, I think, of all the farmers from the wave-washed shores of the Atlantic to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, which I have the honour to represent here to-day. I showed the Minister of Agriculture some samples which are here before you, and he thought it might be well if these were presented to the Committee: as it is no reflection upon the intelligence, even of this honourable body, to say that few have the slightest conception of the extent, the product and the capabilities of these western Territories. I felt then and feel still an embarrassment; because although I cannot say I am entirely unaccustomed to public speaking, I am quite unaccustomed to speaking under such auspices, and I am very much afraid that in my ardour I may violate all the rules of Parliamentary discussion and branch off into an exhortation or sermon, and be called to order. I hope, however, you will regard any of my errors as errors of the head rather than the heart. I am a thorough Canadian from the sole of my feet to the crown of my head. I am an enthusiastic farmer. I claim to be a co-worker with you, if not on the floor of Parliament, yet in the fertile fields of the western prairie. I am a co-worker with you in everything that leads to the success and development of this ancient and honourable industry. I speak more particularly today of the Province of Alberta, because I know it better than I know Assiniboia and North Saskatchewan; but I may say here, that it must not be considered an infringement on the prerogative of the representative of Alberta, my friend Mr. Davis, for he is perfectly willing

that I should be his Aaron in speaking of that promised land. I have no doubt also that my friend from Regina, Mr. Davin, and Mr. Macdowall from Saskatchewan, will present information with respect to their particular districts.

The District of Alberta has an area of over 100,000 square miles. It is, therefore, twice as large as Manitoba, about four times as large as New Brunswick, five times as large as Nova Scotia, and forty times as large as Prince Edward Island. It stretches from the 49th parallel of latitude--the American boundary--up for over 450 miles north to the Territory of Athabasca. It extends from the 111th degree of longitude on the east to the Province of British Columbia on the west, being somewhat of wedge shape, about 120 miles at the south end and somewhere about 300 miles at north; or, say, a mean of 200 miles in width. This country may really be divided into three parts, and each of these parts has a special and distinctive capability of its own.

Here is, first, that western portion of Alberta which takes in the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains and out through the foot-hills to the prairie proper, in which division the hand of Providence has treasured immense mineral wealth, and forests of timber, and everlasting reservoirs of water. Now, it does not require any great prophetic genius to foretell the commercial possibilities that are to be found in such a district. As yet we are only playing at mining; but I firmly believe, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that our children will see Denvers and Butte cities and Bentons north of the 49th parallel.

I see no reason why any sane man can question that. The possibilities are there, and while capital is seeking for investment, and labour is clamouring for employment, and enterprise is everywhere commanding that the stones be made bread, I believe it is not impossible that we shall see

these things north of the 49th parallel. I know that in that country a great deal is being done, but very little compared with what we have reason to expect. This arises from the fact that the mineral resources and resources of timber have been discovered by individuals who have not as yet the capital to open and develop them, and when the hour arrives and capital is found to invest in enterprises in that western portion of Alberta, it will be a great source of strength and commercial advantage to the whole country.

Then, Sir, I hasten to say that the remainder of Alberta, making more than two-thirds of the district, may be divided into what we call Southern Alberta and Northern Alberta.

Southern Alberta, which extends from the boundary line north about 200 miles, to a point about 40 miles north of Calgary, and from the edge of the foot-hills out to the boundary line of Assiniboia, is one of the greatest stock countries of the continent of America. This is not a new statement. It is a well-known and admitted fact by the American ranchmen that Southern Alberta is a far better stock range than can be found today in either Wyoming Territory, Nevada, Washington Territory or Oregon, for the depth of snowfall in winter is less and the grass is better. Many American ranchmen are endeavouring to find some way in which they can bring, especially duty free, their stock over into the district of Southern Alberta, in order to graze them there. Now, while I speak of this section as being distinctively appropriate as a stock-raising country, it is only just to say that in many parts of Southern Alberta I have seen crops of the ordinary kinds of grain--wheat, oats and barley--very excellent, both as regards quality and yield.

From High River, Sheep Creek, Pine Cree, Fish Creek and the valleys of the Elbow and Bow, I have seen at agricultural shows some very fine samples of grain. So she is particularly favoured in having one industry which she can control in a remarkable manner, and yet capable of growing the grains of commerce.

I consider this a great source of wealth, as I am sure you all do, and we have the encouragement that on such large areas men are able to raise hundreds of thousands of stock at comparatively little cost and comparatively little risk, although I must admit that in certain seasons, when the snowfall is exceptional and a crust on the snow, there is some loss of cattle. I think it is only fair to say that some will be lost this year.

But should it reach even 25 per cent, which has never yet been reached, aside from the unpleasant thought of the suffering of the animals, it is an inconsiderable loss after all, when you take into consideration the ease and cheapness with which the cattle can be produced.

I sometimes think that if an Eastern man can afford to sell a three-year old steer for \$30, as I hear they have done, a Western ranchman ought to be able to give the steer and a bonus to the man who takes him to the amount of \$10; because I think it is pretty well understood that you cannot grow steers to three years of age under \$40, or \$45 per head. Taking Southern Alberta, then, it has rich resources in its capabilities of cattle-producing, and also to a considerable extent in grain-growing.

To come more particularly to Northern Alberta, that great fertile valley stretching from about forty miles north of Calgary on for two hundred miles and more past the Red Deer River, the Battle River, North Saskatchewan and Sturgeon River, we have a somewhat different country, with capabilities peculiar to itself, and, in my humble judgment, the garden of Alberta,

a country pre-eminently suited to mixed farming. It has some peculiar features in this respect, that is is a well-wooded and a well-watered country. It is true that there is not wood everywhere where a farmer would wish to find it, but it is true that it answers the description of a park-like country with sufficient timber for necessary purposes in the greater portion. It is a country where a settler going with little means does not need to expend his capital altogether to provide shelter for himself and his stock, but where, if he has not timber on his own land he can get a permit from the Government and get 1,800 lineal feet of building timber, 400 roof poles, 2,000 fence rails and 30 cords of dry wood for 50 cents, and put up his buildings. He can husband his resources to expend in fitting himself out with stock and implements to carry on his work. That is certainly a very important item. So far as water is concerned, I am glad to think that the indications are that there will be no need to mention irrigation, at least in Northern Alberta, for a great many years to come. We have those magnificent water courses--mountain streams and also creek and springs. Even at a very high rolling point on the prairie there is flowing out of the sides of the hills and in the coulees springs of water that remain open the year round.

I have never known a solitary instance in that section of the country where a man had to dig from more than 15 to 30 feet to have at hand a well of the purest and best water. I speak favourably of Northern Alberta also, because we can grow cattle there I think at one-third of the cost that they can be produced for in any of the Eastern Provinces. It is true, we think it best at any time and often find it necessary to house our cattle, because the snowfall is deeper in Northern Alberta. I do not hesitate to say that in my humble judgment the time is fast coming when the best interests of the country, the greatest commercial prosperity of the country, will be best served by holding cattle

in such numbers as can be housed, as therefore the loss will be only such accidental losses as may occur to any farmer. It does not take any very great skill to raise cattle, which at twenty-eight or thirty months old will dress without an ounce of grain 650 and 700 pounds of beef, or a three year old that will dress 800 to 850 pounds. I am speaking of what I have seen, and am testifying to what I know by personal experience. Then, Sir, it does not take a very great deal of skill in farming. Even a novice like myself in average years can grow crops of grain--oats from 50 to 75 bushels to the acre, and weighing 46 to 50 pounds to the bushel; barley from 45 to 55 bushels to the acre and weighing from 54 to 57 pounds to the bushel; wheat from 35 to 40 bushels to the acre and weighing from 62 to 64 pounds per bushel; black barley 35 to 40 bushels to the acre, weighing 60 to 68 pounds to the bushel. We have grown 400 bushels of potatoes and 700 bushels of turnips to the acre. I may say I have seen greater things than these, but I am not taking what is phenomenal under very exceptional and favourable circumstances, but what I believe the average farmer with average care and application can realize five years out of six in Northern Alberta.

But I may say here, I have known yields of 83 bushels to the acre of Welcome oats, and I have seen 90 bushels grown at Red Deer. A man at Fort Saskatchewan raised 115 bushels to the acre, and gave sworn testimony to that effect. I am perfectly aware that men from that country are suspected of being able to tell big stories.

The Chairman--Corresponding with the size of the country.

Mr. Gaetz--Yes; precisely, but I have taken the pains to bring my bondsmen with me in the shape of grain samples, and I will leave practical farmers to say whether the collaterals are worthy of being accepted or not. I am bringing samples produced from my own farm, by one who has no exceptional skill in farming. Some are samples of

the crop of 1889 and some of the crop of 1888. Now when we have a country that will produce such grain as these and that number of bushels to the acre, I can safely leave it to the Committee to say whether there must not be something favourable in the soil and climate where such products may be reaped.

Just to give you an illustration of the fertility of the soil, and the influence of the long, bright days in the North-West Territories--I have seen wheat and oat straw that grew to the height of $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 feet, and yet well headed and filled with plump grain. Mr. L.A. Hamilton, Land Commissioner for Canadian Pacific Railway, who is now in the city of Ottawa, will attest to the fact that I sent in the fall of 1888 to the C.P.R. car wheat 6 feet 2 inches in the straw, with large heads, averaging $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches in length. I am not going to say to this honorable body that in the North-West Territories, in Alberta, it is a perfect paradise; that there are no drawbacks or no disadvantages. I will not impose upon the intelligence of the Committee by saying that there is nothing that the farmer has to contend with, no difficulties, no anxieties in the matter of crop-producing; but I shall be very glad indeed if any gentleman here will tell me where on the face of God's earth there are not some difficulties and some disadvantages to be contended with in farming. I have to say this in all truth and candour; I have closely examined into the matter, and I do not know a spot on earth, either south or north of the 49th parallel, where I would rather take my chances in the industry of mixed farming than I would in Northern Alberta. I just want to say, in order to disarm any possible hostile criticism, that I have no town property to sell, I have no land you can buy, I have no disposition to be rewarded. I want to be in the best part of the country, for my own sake and for my family's sake. I have come here, gentlemen, not as the agent of any Government, or any man, or of any corporation; I am at your own command, telling you of a section of our great country as I find it. I have been

there six years, long enough to have formed a judgment as to its character and capabilities and, therefore I feel that I have a right to speak with some assurance. My motives for going were various, but the chief reasons were, sickness, poverty and a desire to keep my family around me. It was not a dislike for the beautiful Provinces of the east. I am dead in love with Canada any way--I include all the Provinces--even Quebec, which seems to have been handled somewhat roughly of late. But I had not the capital to invest in purchasing a farm in these beautiful Provinces. I never could have hoped to secure land in the east, to enable me to keep my large family of boys around me, seeing that I was very near coming within the range of Mr. Mercier's fecundity bonus. I think there are thousands in Ontario and the other Provinces just in the same situation. I say that if a man is well situated in the eastern Provinces, and if he is doing well, I see no reason why he should move; but men who are mortgaged heavily or renting farms, and are likely to leave the heritage of mortgage and want to their children, I believe it is their duty to go out to the North-West and take up land which will enable them to maintain that family, and do more for them in five years than he could do under the same circumstances in fifteen or twenty years in the eastern Provinces. I may be asked if there is any valuable land still to be had there? if there is much of that land you speak of? Why, gentlemen, I might almost say it is all available; there is only in the fertile valley of the Red Deer, that I have described to you, a few hundred of occupied homesteads; that is only a drop in the bucket, as compared with the capabilities of these vast stretches of fertile land--land very much better than some of the land I am farming. I am on the bottom lands by the riverside, which are thinner and poorer, and will require feeding with manure a little oftener. But most of these products are from these bottom lands. There are millions of acres of deep soils in the various sections of the Red Deer country that are now entirely unoccupied.

That is saying nothing of the fertile valley of the Battle River, the Saskatchewan and the Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan districts, and of the Sturgeon River district, stretching up for 130 miles north, a country of wonderful probabilities;

It seems to me in my zeal I am in danger of overstepping the bounds of privileges; but bear with me when I say the indications suggest the necessity of a vigorous immigration policy for the North-West country--a very vigorous immigration policy indeed. With the strong competition of the Argentine Republic, Brazil and Mexico, Australia and the United States, and a great many other countries, is it reasonable to expect that people are going to flock into Canada, without even the facts of the case being set before them? I think it is quite out of the question for us to reasonably expect this. I therefore hope that there will be efforts put forth by this honourable body that will encourage the filling up of that country; for, let me say, it is to your interest as well as ours. You send us a thousand men, and in a few years we will send you back \$50,000 for commodities that it is impossible for us to provide for ourselves--commodities which you will control, and in which we will not be likely to come into very serious competition with you.

Our markets will soon be in the other direction. China and Japan have become tired of eating rice and want flour; and why should they take it from Washington Territory, Nevada, California--that is, from those portions which grow wheat--when it can be grown out in those western Provinces of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Our coal will not come into competition with eastern coal, for they are clamouring for it for the furnaces along the mountains of Nevada and Washington Territory, where they have to go to the enormous expense of cutting timber away far up in the hills, and shunt it down to the valleys below for their furnaces. They are clamouring for our coal. Our beef, I hope, will soon go to England by the Hudson Bay route, and save long travel. In this way we shall keep out of your road, and will be a help to you in the east.

use both brain and muscle, or else be left behind in the struggle for bread. I feel that the Experimental Farm, while an institution that must benefit the eastern Provinces, is particularly necessary to us. We have no agricultural literature. We have not the experiments of others to guide us--not even their blunders to shun. We are feeling our way; everything is tentative. In good faith we tried the methods that were appropriate in the east, but often failed. In this matter, therefore, I say that the Experimental Farm, under its wise and devoted directors, will be of great value. Not the least in importance are the contemplated experiments with natural grasses of the country, for the time will come when settlement will limit our ranges, and in order to feed our flocks and herds, when the wild ranges are limited, it will be necessary to fall back upon cultivation of native grasses, in themselves most nutritious, and which can be cultivated with success. With this assistance I have no fears with reference to the future. I do not fear the competition of the United States when our country becomes known. I have no idea that the best portion of this country lies south of the 49th parallel. I have no confidence in the idea that the Americans have the best of it. The centuries will tell that the best portion of it lies to the north-west of the great lakes. I think when the resources of that vast region are better known Canadians will flock back from the United States. In my community two-thirds of the settlers are men who were once in the United States--Canadians who went to the United States and tried it, and have come back again. In my own Province of Nova Scotia, that strong, vigorous people are growing men and women so fast that they have no places to put them in, and God has provided the prairies of the west. Would the people of Canada rather have them go to the United States? If they do, I will tell them that six of our latest settlers got tired of going from Nova Scotia to the United States, and have found their way over this transcontinental route and are doing well. Some bachelors there have been able to make, in one summer, \$400 worth of butter, and raise a band of calves besides, such as you could not produce in this country if you tried. I say that is a

country that has hope and promise in it, and I therefore trust you will be able to develop some plan that will settle up that country. Now, I thank you very kindly indeed, honourable gentlemen, for the patient hearing you have given me. I have felt, time and again, that I am trespassing; but my heart is full. My purposes and motives are unimpeachable before heaven. I believe in the country where I have gone to make my home. I believe the Providence of God never made country so perfect as it is to be a failure. I believe there is a home there for millions of the earth, and I hope these facts will be calmly looked into and I believe the results will be favourable. I shall be glad to answer any questions that may be asked, being conscious that I have not nearly gone over the ground.

By Mr. Trow:--

Q. Have they exported any very large amount of grain from that Territory? A. No sir. The home market as yet requires it.

Q. I would also ask you why you produce samples of the crop of 1888? Surely there was sufficient in that great country in 1889 to fill those little bags without taking the produce of 1888? A. It is well understood that in every new country there is a local market, and that local market is the very best we have. We have no reason in the world for sending our products away and getting 50 cents a bushel, when we can get 68 cents right at our door. There is in every new country this local market, which as long as it lasts, is the very best. Up to the present time, we have always had ways of disposing of all we could raise. I sold 1,500 bushels of oats to one man--a stage contractor--at 68 cents per bushel. There is a vast freight traffic that goes from the Canadian Pacific Railway station at Calgary all through the northern country, away up to White Fish Lake and Saddle Lake, and the Indian reserves north. These teams have to be fed, and require all the grain that we have already raised here. With reference to my bringing the seed of 1888, I have nothing to conceal. I do

not hesitate to say, and I assume that the questioner knows, that 1889 was our hardest year. It was the most difficult year, because of a drought that we had never before experienced. Why was that the case? Because the winter before was no winter at all--just a continual spring. There was no snow on the ground; there was no frost. Our Aprils and Mays are invariably dry, and the seed last year was placed in the ground when it was so dry that it did not germinate. Rain held off until about the first week in July, and consequently we did not realize either the quantity or quality of grain we had in other years. This year, I am glad to say, we have an old-fashioned Canadian winter, with plenty of snow and plenty of cold. I believe the prospects were never better.

Q. On what dates do you commence seeding? A. About the latter part of March or the first of April. Some of our largest seeders, the Beatty Bros., for instance, have their grain mostly sown by the 8th of April. I have known it to be the latter part of April before it was sown. In the year 1886 or 1887--I cannot just tell which--the snow lay on until the latter part of March, and seeding did not begin until the 10th of April.

Q. Are you subject to any summer frost? A. The only one we had was on the 11th of July, 1887, when the barley was just heading out. Frost in those localities, as many of you know, goes in veins or streaks, something like a hail storm, and quite often you will find that while the grain on one half-section has been injured, that on the neighbouring half-section has not been touched at all. The frost was local. We have this to fear. It is one of the draw-backs that may come; I cannot guarantee that it will not. It is one of those occurrences, however, that may come to almost any country, and when it destroys the tobacco crop of Virginia, as it did last year, it will be very likely to strike out and reach the crops in northern parts of Canada.

Q. Where do you derive your information in reference to the percentage of loss in the ranch districts this season, because the season is only partially past? Twenty-five per cent is very large. I understand you to say ~~per~~ 25 per cent would be the loss? A. I hope I was not so understood. I said: "Even should it reach 25 per cent, which it never had yet." In the winter of 1887 it reached 7 or 8 per cent. I am sure there will be some loss this winter. I was only making the point that should it reach that percentage (25) the ease with which the cattle could be produced would not make it, after all, to a large ranchman, a very serious loss.

Q. What distance are you removed from the railway company's reserve? A. Eighty-eight miles from Calgary, my nearest railway point.

By Mr. Armstrong:--

Q. Perhaps Mr. Gaetz would give us some idea about the general rainfall in the summer in that country. Is it pretty plentiful and pretty evenly distributed, as a general thing? Of course, we know this last year was dry all over the North-West? A. I am very glad also to be able to answer that question, because, of course, in that country, having imbibed from every source the idea that it never rained, the Canadian Pacific Railway employees and the American land agents were telling me, when I was going into the country, that it never rained there, and I would be dried out, and be sick and tired of it before very long. In the face of this, I thought I had done a rash act in coming to a country where it never rained. But before the 20th of August I wondered whether it ever stopped. It rained from about the 8th of June, at short intervals, on through June and July, and up to the 7th August, so that the brooks were booming and the sloughs were full, and we could not get into the meadows with our mowers, and had to go out on the high prairie to cut our hay. The year 1886 was a delightful year, because the rain just seemed to come when it was needed. It was well distributed, and all we needed. It was not so great

as in 1884 and 1885, but it was sufficient for all purposes. In 1887 there was also abundance of rain. From 1884 to 1889 the rainfall was sufficient for all purposes of agriculture. Last year, 1889, was the only season that we had any suspicion of the possibility of a failure of moisture.

By Mr. Trow:-

Q. How many months do you house your cattle and horses? A. A great many of them we do not house at all. Our young stock or yearlings simply go in the shed in the night, and around the straw stack in the day. Our breeding cows we house. My young horses were out this winter until the last week in January, though one of the coldest winters since I have been in the country. They were in perfectly good condition, and healthy. Horses accustomed to it will get into one of these big sloughs and will stay there week after week, live well and come home fat. Speaking of last winter, our young horses did not come home at all. We never fed them a pound of hay, but I do not want to see the recurrence of a winter like that again. I think a snowfall and cold are better than these mild winters.

Q. This has been the experience of the farmers even in Ontario, the experience of the new settlers when the country was comparatively a bleak wilderness; the cattle lived on brouse. It has also been the experience of Manitoba. When the country becomes thickly settled, do you expect to raise natural grasses there? Has the experiment been tried? A. I have never been under the necessity of trying the experiment. I am experimenting now with a variety of grasses under cultivation, including, timothy, Alsasas clover, Blue-top, and Kentucky blue grass. I have tried these; so far, I have had no success with clover. Last year I put down an acre of timothy and had an excellent yield--a ton to the acre, even dry as it was. I will say further, that the piece which had been sown two years was very short, and did not come up to my expectation at all, and was not cut.

It would have cut, probably, half a ton, but I thought it was better to let what there was go to seed; consequently, I am unable to decide as to the others, but I see no reason why timothy should not succeed. As to the native grasses Mr. McKay, who has been experimenting at the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, will give us some encouragement, I hope, on these points.

Q. Would not the Experimental Farm be much better in your settlement than at Indian Head? A. Certainly I would like that very much. The Department did not look at it that way, and yet generous and unselfish a mortal as I am, I think, all things considered, it is better where it is; because it is working for a wooded and park-like country in Northern Alberta as well as for the Province of Assiniboia, where there is a great dearth of wood, and consequently I believe the results will be far better and more satisfactory to have it located where it is, because if they succeed with any experiment at Indian Head I have no doubt it will be a great success in Northern Alberta.

By Mr. Sproule:-

Q. What is the mean depth of your snow in winter? A. Well, it is very varied. I have known it to be 5 or 6 inches deep in the winters of 1886 and 1887; in the winter of 1887-88 it was 23 and 24 inches deep, but to strike an average, I would say somewhere between 16 and 18 inches, taking a period of ten years.

By Mr. Trow:-

Q. Has any coal been developed in your section? A. Well, I may just say to my honourable friend that the whole country is underlaid with coal. There is none yet being mined. I am within twenty miles of the great coal banks in Range 24, Township 38, west of the Fourth Principal Meridian, where, by my own measurement, there are 60 feet of coal from the top down to the water's edge, and running under the water's edge I don't know how far. They are not yet developed any more than a man taking a sled in winter and rolling on a

block of half a ton or so at a time and taking it home. That is all the development as yet.

By Mr. Armstrong:-

Q. I suppose you have been about a good deal in Northern Alberta? A. Yes.

Q. Down nearly as far as Edmonton? A. I have been thirty miles north of Edmonton.

Q. The question I want to ask you is this: have you formed any general idea about the extent of land yet to go on for immediate settlement? You understand that in our country, in Ontario, even around London, where they have the best land, there are large tracts of magnificent land now that in early days were not fit to go on to settle. It required time and capital. About what do you think is the proportion of land that a settler can go in on and commence ploughing and cropping at once? A. There is so much of it that it would be impossible for me to say. I have simply to state this--if a man were to tumble out of a balloon at random he could hardly fall on a quarter-section of land in that country where there would not be enough fertile, tillable land for a man of small capital to go to work upon and farm. That is my honest conviction; that is--unless he fell into a lake, and provided his health was not impaired by the fall. Good land is so abundant it is really easier to tell what is not there than what is there. There are immense tracts; of course there are bluffs of small timber here and there, but these are a convenience. Taking the land generally, I think this land today, in its virgin state, without a ploughshare having touched it, would be worth \$100 to the acre near some eastern city or town. It is so fertile and so easily broken up that a man can start and plough for a quarter of a mile, and if he get a favourable position he can plough a mile.

Qu. I suppose these bluffs will be good land, too, after the timber is taken off? A. The very best.

By Mr. Davin:-

Q. Wherever there are bluffs, there is splendid land also?

By Mr. Armstrong:-

Q. The bluffs you speak of are not rocky, worthless land at all. It is good land, and will be good land, the same as the surrounding prairie when the timber is taken off? A. I think it is the very best of land, but now it costs too much to clear while as yet there is such an abundance of land. In my garden, for example, I have that kind of land--and that which had been burned over once, covered with rose bushes. There is not a rock in it; you cannot get a rock to shie at a gopher for miles in a stretch. I believe it to be the richest land, from experience, where these timber bluffs had been.

By Mr. Watson:-

Q. You have had considerable experience there in regard to rainfall. Don't you think it would be a good thing to protect a lost of this timber? I suppose it has a certain effect on the atmosphere? A. I have no doubt it would be an important thing to protect what timber we have. Take sections of the country, say forty miles north of Calgary, there is a distance of from fifteen to twenty miles where there are only scattered bluffs. It is not only important to protect what there is, but to grow more. The Government ought to give great encouragement in the supplying of trees to plant. It is a matter of no difficulty at all to grow any of these trees. I have taken spruce up and removed them, and taking simple, ordinary care of them, I have lost but 2 per cent of those I have planted. Poplars are more vigorous still.

Q. Is the timber being injured very much by fires?
A. A great deal, I am sorry to say.

Q. What means could be taken to protect them?

A. It is very difficult indeed to say what means could be taken. I am not a born legislator, but I sometimes think it would be desirable that there should be an officer appointed in various districts--a sort of fire warden--whose duty it should be, not his privilege, whenever a fire anywhere, to go out and command his neighbours to go and assist in putting out that fire, and having authority to fine those who refused. As it is, if we see a fire and know it is going to pass our own place without doing serious harm to use, in our own selfish way we often go to sleep and let it burn. I have felt intensely on this subject. I know there has been enough timber destroyed in my district to meet the requirements of a large agricultural community for the next fifteen or twenty years. If there was a fire warden to go and warn men when a fire started, even fifteen or twenty miles away, this damage might be averted. At the inception of a fire it is a very small thing, but afterward it is a very difficult thing to control or stop it.

Q. Would a system of brakes do? A. We all do that. The man who is a "russler" will generally put his fields in such a shape as to protect his place; but for the unsettled portion of the country, those vast stretches of the country which are nobody's special interest, it would be simply impossible to meet the difficulty with fire-brakes.

Q. Nobody except the Government. Would it not be well in the interest of that country and its future for an expenditure to be made in making fire-brakes every six, or eight or ten miles? A. That would mean making these fire-brakes every year, because the growth of vegetation is so rich. I have seen a piece of ground turned up and not cropped, and by next season there would be a growth of 3 or 4 feet of rank grass. That grass dies in the autumn and leaves you as helpless as you were before.

By Mr. Armstrong:-

Q. What are the principal varieties of timber you have in your country? A. We have chiefly spruce and poplar. In addition to those, we have tamarac, a little birch and a small wood called Sascatoon, of very little commercial value, but of great value to the farmer. It is a very tough wood, and makes an excellent whiffletree, or anything of that sort. It is equal to the rock elm in Ontario.

Q. Does the spruce grow to any considerable size?

A. I have had some spruce taken out this winter for milling purposes that will go 28 inches across the stump. That is a large size. If I were to strike an average, I would say 12 to 15 inches would be an average all round.

By Mr. Kirk:-

Q. Is spruce a desirable wood for fencing? A. Not for fencing, if just cut down and immediately put in without any preparation; but spruce that has the bark shaved off and put into a hot willow fire and singed or dipped in lime water is almost as desirable as tamarac, but, of course, not so desirable as cedar.

Q. How does it compare with Nova Scotia spruce?

A. I think it is the very same; I see no difference. Some people will take this dead spruce that they find fire-killed, and small pieces no bigger than your arm, and string wire upon it. They take no pains to keep it from corroding, and such treatment gives the impression that spruce is no good. I think that if pains are taken that spruce makes a very excellent post, not equal to tamarac or cedar, of course, but still a very desirable post, in places where other varieties cannot be had.

By Mr. Trow:-

Q. Has the Government made a proper system of survey of the townships out there? A. Yes, sir.

The country is all blocked out in townships, and a considerable portion of it sub-divided into sections. In the Red Deer River district there are ten townships divided into sections, but the whole country is not sub-divided. It is laid out in townships so that a man who understands township surveys can pretty nearly locate himself.

Q. Why should he be put to that unnecessary trouble?

A. We sincerely hope that will not remain the case very long. I think that whenever immigration begins to swarm in there that will be remedied. I beg to suggest, although the Government may not thank me for "pointers," that it would be well to get ahead of the immigration, so that men might have their choice and know what they have chosen.

By Mr. Sproule:-

Q. How are you off for mills? A. We have no grist mills there yet. No man has had enough capital to start one, and it is one of the things I propose to enquire about, and see if a portable grist mill can be had. There was a saw mill put in by the Mackenzie's some years ago, and last fall I was rash enough to put in a portable saw mill, with edger, matcher and planer, and a thirty horse-power John A. Bell engine. We think now of getting a grist mill to run by this engine during that portion of the year it will not be used by the saw mill, as we have not enough demand cutting the whole year. The day we are able to convert our wheat into flour will greatly lessen the cost of living, for it costs \$1 to \$1.35 per hundred to freight our flour from Calgary. The Red Deer River, with a fall of 14 feet per mile, is one of the grandest of water powers that nature has ever provided, with good banks, and every facility for the establishment of mills. As yet, however, it is very much cheaper, in a small way, for men to employ steam power rather than water.

By Mr. Innes:-

Q. How do vegetables and small fruits do?

Vegetables do splendidly. We have had no manner of failure in regard to vegetables in any year but last year. The drought last year decidedly affected us as it did Manitoba and the North-West generally. I suppose I may astonish some of you when I say I have grown potatoes at the rate of 720 bushels to the acre. That is a phenomenal yield, but not that we gave them any special attention; we can grow from 300 to 400 bushels of potatoes per acre, without any extra attention, skill or manure. We can also grow carrots, cabbages and cauliflower. I have frequently seen cauliflower at Calgary Fair that were a yard in circumference. You may have seen them larger, but I am glad to get them that large. In reference to small fruits, I may just say, that this is another matter that has to be experimented upon for us, rather than we for ourselves. I have been for four or five years doing this work, and not without some results. I have grown red currants, black currants and strawberries with considerable success, but not what would satisfy me or the taste of any ordinary farmer. I find we made a blunder. I have no idea that it is our cold winters that kill our fruits. I think it is the hot, dry winds of April and May. The sap comes up early; unless they are mulched then the bark gets loose because the sap seems to dry it up. I am waiting for information on this matter, but in the meantime I am trying a heavy mulch around the roots this year, so as to keep the sap back, as you do with your grape vines. If we can keep the sap back I believe we will make a success of small fruits. It is done in many parts of the country and some have excellent success. I have not yet got what I hope to obtain.

By Mr. Trow:-

Q. Have you Chinook winds? A. We are not so subject to them as they are in Southern Alberta, but since I left home, as a mere freak of nature, they have had one of the strongest Chinooks there that they have had in any part of the country. The snow went off very quickly, and the whole band

of cattle started off to seek their own fare, and succeeded so well that when they came back they would not touch food. But as a general thing we are not so liable to warm winds as they are further south.

By Mr. Armstrong:-

Q. Have you any wild small fruits that can be used? A. I only planted some last year, and cannot say. The growth this year was remarkable, and I begin to feel this is a matter in which we can attain some success. There is all kind of wild fruit there, such as currants, gooseberries, etc.

Q. Can you gather them for use? A. Yes; any quantity for our own use. There is another berry called the Saskatoon, very much like the blueberry of the eastern Provinces. In 1886 a man could go out and gather barrels of them.

By Mr. Watson:-

Q. What was the largest crop of grain grown there, and what is the amount of area under settlement? A. The area of settlement would be over a length of seven or eight miles along the Edmonton trail, by three or four miles east and west of the trail, but it is a scattered settlement. There is no closely-packed settlement anywhere. As to the largest crop--do you mean that I have had?

Q. I mean the total crops? A. There is no bureau of agriculture to gather statistics, and I really cannot, on the spur of the moment, give any information. In the season of 1888 I had about three thousand bushels of grain in all, of wheat oats, barley and some peas. The Beatties had some 2,000 bushels. I suppose 10,000 or 15,000 bushels were grown in the little neighbourhood there althgether.

By Mr. Cochrane:-

Q. Do peas grow well there? A. I have grown 35

bushels to the acre, and weighing 66 pounds to the bushel, of the Golden Vine variety.

By Mr. Trow:-

Q. Do you find the wild pea there? A. We have abundance of the pea vine, also vetch, all through that district.

Q. It is regarded as a strong indication that the land is fertile, is it not? A. We have abundance of it. There is one variety that grows low and tangled in the grass, while there is another that grows on the willows and poplars, climbing them 6 or 8 feet.

By Mr. Watson:-

Q. How is your wheat marketed, if you have no market? A. I dispose of it to newcomers. We keep some for seed, and we fatten pigs on it, and it pays to fatten pigs on wheat, when you get 40 bushels to the acre and 64 pounds to the bushel, and 10 cents a pound for pork.

By Mr. Fisher:-

Q. How many people are there in that settlement? A. I suppose there are about a hundred occupying homesteads. They would average, including bachelors, from 150 to 200 in that settlement. I wish to say that this is some distance from the Mormon Settlement. There is nothing that would give me more pleasure than to have Government send about 1,000 men and 2,000 women. This would be the grandest thing that every happened to that country. I say when a man goes out to that country or to any country he should take his wife with him. If he has not a wife he should get one. Many persons insure their won failure by going out for a year or two to get things fixed up and send back for their wives and families. A woman who cannot do as much as a man and a-half in fixing up is not much of a woman. I am worth a little, but my wife is worth ten times as much as I am. If you want a

downright enthusiast in reference to the country, if you have money to spend for immigration purposes she will do the work. When she went out to the North-West Territories, six years ago, the doctors were anxious in reference to her change of living. She had never been well in the Lower Provinces for many years. Now she is a robust, strong woman. I know also Mrs. Nelson, wife of the Rev. Mr. Nelson, who has also regained health. I am only mentioning these facts to show that the climate cannot be so rigorous and so fatal as some people would like you to believe. That is not the case. I do not want to disparage this country, but taking even the low reading of the thermometer for the last few days in the North-West, I will take the climate indicated in preference to what we have had here for the last two or three days. I have not had a cold or a sore throat for the last two or three years till I came to Ottawa. It would be foolish for me to say that it is not cold in the North-West. You do feel the cold there, but at the same time you don't feel the cold to the extent that you might imagine from the reading of the thermometer. We have not lost a solitary day all winter in consequence of cold. My sons have gone three and four miles to work in the coldest days we have had, and children play out of doors, in the bracing atmosphere, unless the temperature is very low indeed.

By Mr. Innes:-

Q. What is the average range of the thermometer in winter? A. I can hardly tell just offhand, but this winter, I believe, the mean temperature in Northern Alberta measures down somewhere a few degrees below zero. It has been very steady cold weather, about the coldest I have known since I have been in the country. In the summer months the mean temperature derived from meteorological statistics at Battleford and Toronto, taken three years ago--I have no recent data--for the months of June, July and August, was 61° in Toronto, and 60° in Battleford.

By Mr. Bain(Wentworth):-

Q. How are your summer nights? Under what conditions do you get your summer frost--is it after a rain, or how? A. It is usually after a rain, when the wind is to the north-east.

Q. Do your rains come from the north-east?

A. From the north-east generally.

Q. Is that where you have your summer rains from?

A. Well, we are very apt to have our summer rains from the north-east--more apt to be from that quarter than any other.

Q. It is very apt to settle down cold? A. It is very apt to settle down cold in the early part of June, especially in the full of the moon in June. If we have rain then there is a little danger it might settle down into frost, though very slight.

Q. When the wind is in the north-east? A. Yes; however, in reality we have never been seriously affected.

By Mr. Carling:-

Q. You have experimented with different kinds of wheat, I think, in that section of the country? You have tried the Red Fife, and you have tried the Ladoga wheat? I would like to ask you whether you have found the Ladoga wheat to ripen earlier than the other different kinds of wheat that you have tried, and what is the result of your experiment? I might say to the gentlemen present that the sample of Mr. Gaetz's wheat here present on the table is the Ladoga wheat grown in the Red Deer district, and I have a sample here of the Ladoga wheat grown in the Peace River district, 350 miles north-west of Edmonton, which weighs 64 pounds to the bushel. This is quite clear that that northern district, as far as to the Peace River, is very able to grow a good quality of wheat. I pass it around to gentlemen who would like to see it? A. I have tried three

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varieties of wheat--one variety called the Defiance, another the Fife, and third Ladoga. My experience is that the Ladoga will ripen about a week or ten days earlier than the Defiance. Up to the present, it is the earliest-maturing variety that we have had, and the general feeling among the farmers is that this is the wheat for the North-West. If there is any little prejudice as to the colour of the flour, I think this will be overcome. If the farmer is able to take his own grain to the mill he will be glad to take the flour, even with a high colour.

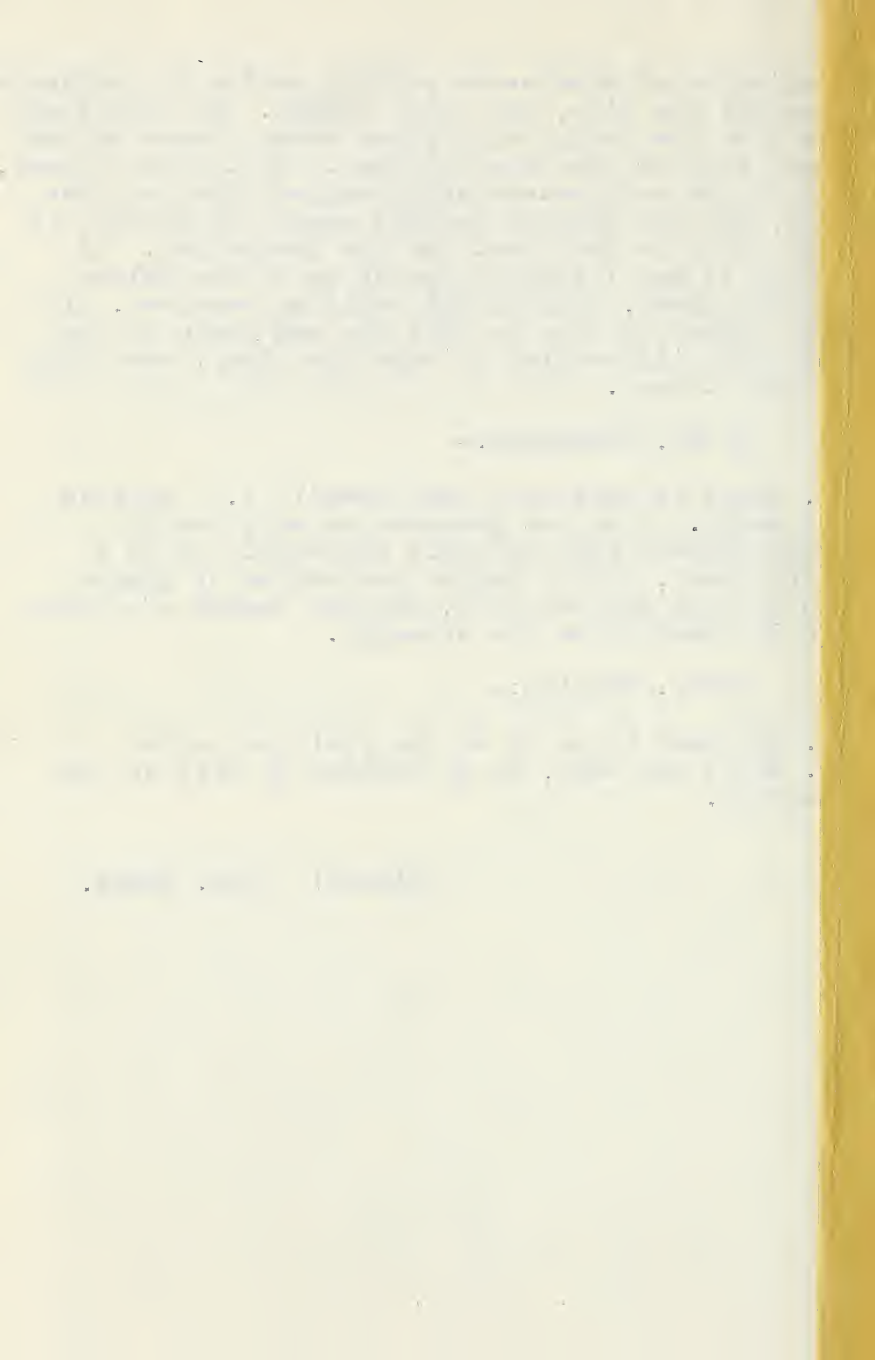
By Mr. Armstrong:-

Q. Would it rate as a hard wheat? A. I believe it would. I am not prepared to say; but the Experimental Farm bulletin represents it as a hard wheat, with a larger proportion of gluten in it than the Red Fife, and the amount of gluten in it constitutes its strength.

By Mr. Carling:-

Q. How does it do as to the yield per acre?
A. It is the best, in my opinion by five or six bushels.

(Signed) Leo. Gaetz.



PUBLIC GATHERING

TO HONOUR

Mr. Joseph Welsh

*Principal of the Red Deer Junior High School
and Superintendent of City Schools*

*On His Retirement After Thirty-one Years of Service
in the Red Deer Schools*

Memorial Centre

RED DEER, ALBERTA

Friday, June 4th, 1954

8:30 P.M.

Class Representatives 1924-54

1923-24	George Cox
1924-25	George Horn
1925-26	Frances Kangiesser (Mrs. Geo. Cox)
1926-27	Tom Cornett
1927-28	Isabel Cruickshank (Mrs. Walter Code)
1928-29	George McLevin
1929-30	Sheila Hanna (Mrs. Neil Jarvin)
1930-31	Bob MacGregor
1931-32	Harry Halladay
1932-33	Florence Holmes (Mrs. Paul Brown)
1933-34	Edna Crawford (Mrs. Pat Smith)
1934-35	Mel Crawford
1935-36	Bill Moore
1936-37	Ronald Scott
1937-38	Harold Crawford
1938-39	Doris Tetley (Mrs. G. B. Hanford)
1939-40	Gwen Scragg (Mrs. Stan Tetley)
1940-41	Leah Brodersen
1941-42	Stanley Tetley
1942-43	Elmer Crawford
1943-44	Jeanne Barrett
1944-45	Harold Asmundson
1945-46	Chlo-Ellen Cox
1946-47	Lloyd Crawford
1947-48	Beryl Lundberg
1948-49	Ted Bower
1949-50	Donald Woitte
1950-51	Bob Cox
1951-52	Barry Code
1952-53	Hugh Horn
1953-54	Barbara Anne Cornett

PROGRAMME

CHAIRMAN: MR. G. H. DAWE

O CANADA

OPENING REMARKS ----- Mr. G. H. Dawe

“MR. WELSH TEACHES HIS CLASS” ----- Mr. Welsh
and Representatives of the Years 1924-54

PIANO SOLO ----- Miss Deirdre Foster

ADDRESS ----- Mayor H. W. Halladay

INTRODUCTION of the Minister of Education
Mr. R. V. McCullough
Supt., Red Deer School Division No. 35

ADDRESS ----- Hon. A. O. Aalborg
Minister of Education

PRESENTATIONS:

RED DEER SCHOOL BOARD ----- Mr. G. M. England
Chairman Red Deer School Board

STAFF ----- Miss Isabel C. Murray

FORMER STUDENTS ----- Mr. C. H. Humber

REPLY ----- Mr. J. Welsh

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Accompanist: Miss Deirdre Foster

RECEPTION IN MEMORIAL CENTRE GYMNASIUM

CENTRAL ALBERTA PIONEERS' & OLD TIMERS' ASSOCIATION

Red Deer --- Alberta

Membership Past & Present 1934 - 1951

l, B.P.
l, W.J.
ong, T.G.
l, H.
l, H.T.
il, Mrs. A.
son, J.
son, Mrs. O.
r, Mrs. M.S.
l, C.R.
age, M.
rth, H.E.
rth, Mrs.
n, Ken
l, Winnie,
ong, John
ong, Mrs.
n, W.E.
n, Mrs.
A.G.
Mrs.
son, J.E.
son, Fred
D.W.
l, Geoff.
l, Mrs.
o, S.B.
o, Mrs.
ald, R.D.
son, Mrs. Fred
W.G.
son, Mrs. A.
son, David
W.C.
Mrs.
lson, A.
lson, J.
ong, Robt.
ong, Wm.
ong, E.
ong, Mrs. Thos.
a, All.
a. O.M.
son, H.
son, Mrs.
l, Albert E.
sford, R.
ford, Mrs.
l, James
G.
l, L.E.
l, Ole

Botterill, W.J.
Ball, G.W.
Broughton, W.J.
Bradbury, George
Bradbury, Mrs. Mary
Bradbury, Fred
Bower, Hugh
Blades, R.H.
Botterill, Mrs. W.J.
Botterill, Miss P.
Bickley, John
Burnett, Norman
Burnett, Mrs.
Bradbury, E.B.
Bannerman, Barbara
Blakeley, Mrs. B.
Bower, A.D.
Bannerman, J.A.
Bannerman, Mrs.
Beckley, Wm.
Beckley, Mrs.
Botterill, Norman
Brown, Mrs. L.E.
Ball, Mrs. G.W.
Bjorkland, Mrs. E.W.
Bjorkland, Vic.
Bearchell, Mrs. A.
Brown, James H.
Brown, Mrs.
Bowen, Mrs. P.
Bennett, B.W.
Blair, Allan K.
Blair, Anna K.
Blair, Helen
Brett, A.
Bower, Chas.
Bunn, Dr. C.R.
Belich, M.R.
Brackeney, J.R.
Bradbury, Mrs. E.B.
Beckley, Mrs. K.
Berreth, George
Blair, D.W.
Bjorsan, Mrs. Esse
Bjorsan, Mrs.
Bascombe, J;
Bascombe, Mrs.
Benol N.L.
Bower, Norman
Bremner, Henry
Black, Mrs. S.L.
Barwick, J.A.
Blue, O.

Bunn, Mrs. C.R.
Bower, Mrs. Hugh
Braithwaite, C.R.
Bickley, L.
Brown, J.H.
Bower, A.D.
Bower, Mrs. Chas.
Bailey, R.J.
Bailey, Mrs.
Bickford, A.T.
Bickford, Mrs.
Bruce, Chas.
Bickley, Pat.
Black, R.T.
Beckley, Jack
Beckley, Mrs.
Brown, Tom.
Brooks, Mrs. Winnifred
Black, M.E.
Bugler, Walter
Bugler, Mrs.
Brown, A.J.
Barbee, G.H.
Barbee, E.F.
Barbee, R.
Blakeley, S.
Blakeley, Mrs.
Barrett, R.E.
Barrett, Mrs.
Busby, Mrs. R.
Black, Mrs. R.T.
Beatty, W.E.
Beatty, Mrs.
Buttin, J.W.
Buttin, Mrs.
Baines, T.
Baines, Mrs.
Bennett, F.G.
Bailey, G.W.
Bailey, Mrs.
Baxter, E.F.
Baxter, Mrs.
Broughton, T.
Balinhard, W.D.C. de.
Eower, Mrs. J.
Bury, A.C.
Bury, Mrs. G.E.
Browning, Jack
Brockman, A.W.
Brierley, Wm.
Bremner, Wm.
Bettinson, Jack
Bettinson, Mrs.

ter, Sam
ter, Mrs.
er, Dorothy
derson, E.C.
derson, Mrs. Irene
ir, Gordon
wn, Mrs. J.
er, Wm.
erman, Mrs. J.
nam, Mrs. M.
er, J.H.
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cinheimer, H.E.
tton, T.
keley, B.
ze, Paul
ze, Harry
ham, G.H.
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eake, C.S.
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dwell, H.F.
ckney, J.R.
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sels, W.A.
nquist, E.P.
nett, R.G.
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ickshanks, James
scallen S.N.
tingham, Miss F.
y, A.H.
y, Mrs.
pbell, Tom
nett, Mrs. R.G.
rke, Mrs. Hugh
sels, Mrs. Elsie
er, James
er, Mrs.
swell, J.A.
usen, Dan
usen, Jonas G.
swell, Cecil
swell, Mrs. J.
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dwell, D.B.
ssley, H.
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scallen, Mrs. F.J.
scallen, Margaret
 , A.H.

Cottle, F.L.
Currie, Beatrice
Connell, Allen
Cookson, Wm.
Cookson, Mrs.
Cole, Mrs. J.M.
Card, Mrs. M.
Churches, Geo.
Carscadden Mrs. J.M.
Carscadden, Gladys
Collier, Mrs. W.
Comstock, Mrs. W.H.
Comstock, Margaret
Comstock, Clyde
Christian, George Jnr.
Cravath, Mrs. E.
Cyr, Mrs. C.H.
Cline, H.L.
Comet, James
Comet, Mrs.
Coghill, A.
Christianson, T.
Christianson, J.P.
Christianson, Mrs.
Christianson, Miss T.
Comfort, J.H.
Craig, James
Craig, Mrs.
Carscallen, F.J.
Cline, Mrs. H.
Creelman, Mrs. Rex
Caswell, E.C.
Caswell, Mrs.
Crossley, Harold
Crossley, Mrs.
Cooper, S.C.
Curr, Sandy
Curr, Mrs.
Comer, H.W.
Comer, Mrs.
Carritt, Fred
Carritt, Mrs.
Craig, Mrs. James
Cram, Mrs. E.
Cochrane, John W.
Chamberlin, A.J.N.
Chamberlin, Mrs.
Cornett, George
Crawford, Paul
Crawford, Mrs.
Cook, Mrs. Pearl
Cuddy, Tom.
Creelman, M.M.
Craig, Mrs. May
Code, W.P.
Code, Mrs.
Calvert, C.W.
Calvert Mrs.

Choate, J.A.
Choate, Mrs.
Case, Mrs. F.
Connors, F.B.
Connors, Mrs.
Christian, Mrs. J.W.
Cavanaugh, J.P.
Chambers, J.
Cony, J.N.
Cuddy, Mrs. Eva
Coulthwaite, T.H.
Clarke, Pat.
Collicutt, Frank
Collicutt, Mrs.
Curr, Mrs. N.M.
Christiansen, A.J.
Clarke, Hugh
Cole, Mina P.
Connor, C.H.
Creasy, Mrs. Ed.
Cowlthorp, H.L.
Connor, C.H.
Cuddy, J.S.
Caton, G.L.
Caton, Mrs.
Case, Mrs. M.P.
Card, M.
Colling, G.
Carswell, James
Cuddy, Mrs. Eva
Day, E.B.
Dennis, Mrs. Minnie
Dale, J.J.
Dawson, J.J.
Darrough, Wm.
Douglas, W.J.
Douglas, Mrs. Annie M.
Domoney, Fred
Duncan, George
Dickinson, J.W.
Dale, Mrs. J.J.
Doyle, Mrs.
Domoney, L.W.
Domoney, Mrs. H.L.M.
Domoney, Mrs. Fred
Ditzler, C.N.
Domoney, Mrs. Myrtle
Dowler, F.A.
Dowler, Mrs.
Delaney, Fred
Dixon, J.G.
Ditzler, L.W.
Ditzler, Mrs.
Denmark, W.A.
Denmark, Mrs.
Drever, J.
Drever, Mrs.

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y, Mrs.
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y, Mrs. E.B.
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land, Geo. M.
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wards, S.E.
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inton, E.J.
ackson, A.
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gländ, Mrs. Geo. M.

Farquaharson, C.
Farr, Mrs. M.
Fletcher, E.C.
Fleming, G.E.
Fead, A.
Frid, G.A.
Frid, Mrs.
Fisk, R.W.
Foster, J.D.
Fletcher, E.C.
Farnell, W.S.
Farrar, J.
Flack, G.L.
Fisher, Art
Farnell, E.B.
Farnell, Mrs.
Forth, Tom
Feya, A.A.
Forbes, Bob
Fisk, Mrs. R.W.
Fisher, W.J.
Fitch, C.H.
Fry, J.
Fry, Mrs.
Firby, Mrs. W.
Foster, J.D.
Fleming, Stephen
Fleming, Mrs.
Findlay, Moe
Findlay, Mrs. Joe
Freeman, S.E.
Fitch, B.
Fitch, Mrs.
Farley, Frank
Farren, J.
Farr, J.S.

Gaetz, T.A.
Gaetz, Mrs.
Gaetz, M.M.
Gaetz, Mrs.
Gaetz, Flo
Gaetz, R.L.
Gaetz, Mrs.
Griffin, Ralph
Gummow, Del
Gummow, Mrs.
Grimson, G.S.
Grimson, Samuel
Gehrke, S.R.
Gehrke, Mrs.
Gehrke, August
Gehrke, Alex
Gehrke, John
Gudmundson, T.H.
Gaetz, F.W.
Gaetz, J.B.

Gibson, H.B.
Grant, Mrs. J.A.
Gaetz, Simon
Gehrke, E.
Graham, P.L.
Gaetz, Annie L.
Graham, Mrs. James
Graham, James
Gaetz, Mrs. T.E.
Eilbert, G.M.
Green, George
Gilbert, Mrs. D.M.
Gilchrist, Mrs. A.
Greig, Ernest
Green, F.T.
Galbraith, F.P.
Gaetz, Percy
Green, James
Giffen, H.R.
Gano, JH.
Goodey, A.J.
Goodacre, Art
Goodacre, Mrs.
Gaetz, Mrs. Percy
Goodridge, E.G.
Gilchrist, Hugh
Grimson, Mrs. G.S.
Green, Mrs. J.E.
Gillis, Webb
Greer, Jack F.
Grieve, Hugh
Grieve, Mrs.
Glasson, E.
Gordon, M.E.
Gilchrist, Mrs. Hugh
Grant, Dr. D.R.
Gordon, Mrs. M.E.
Grant, Mrs. D.R.
Goodacre, Harry
Goodacre, Mrs.
Gummow Wm.
Gray, Ira
Gish R.B.
Gish, Mrs.
Gehrke, Mrs. Alex
Greenwood, Mr.
Greenwood, Mrs.
Griffiths, W.C.
Griffiths, Mrs. M.
George, Ernest, S.
Goings, J.J.
Grierson, F.

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son, Mrs. Jane
son, Mrs. T.
on, Cecil
mark, Bernard
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ton, Mrs. Guy
es, Norman
Walter H.
mark. O.A.
gren, A.E.
on, Mrs. Ben
mark, Mrs. O.A.
mark. J.
ert, J.B.
Mrs. E.S.
en, Ella
Dave
Henry
rth, Wm.
man, John
Mrs. Henry
s, Mrs. Sr.
ins, A.
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stad, E.
C.A.
Mrs.
rook, Mrs.
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ert, A.
ert, Mrs.
ert, R.B.
ert, Mrs.
stad, A.B.
Mrs. E.G.
Walter

Heikla, John
Heikla, Mrs.
Hedemark, PlB.
Harrison, C.A.
Huget, H.
Huget, Mrs.
Hoppus, Mrs. V.
Howarth, Mrs. W.
Hopfe, Mrs. E.M.
Haliburton, Mrs. D.A.
Hallgren, Miss C.
Hazlett, Mrs. W.J.
Hammond, Eva
Hayden, J.W.
Hodgkinson, Mrs. S.
Henderson, J.
Hulgaard, Mrs.
Henderson, Mrs. H.T.
Humphrey, J.
Humphrey, Mrs.
Hodson, J.C.
Huget, Chas.
Hives, T.
Hart, Fred
Hutton, S.D.
Hay, G.
Hamilton, Mrs. M.A.
Hartley, W.H.
Hartley, Mrs.
Hart, Mrs. Fred
Hives, Sydney
Horn, Mrs. D.G.
Hazlett, Mrs. James
Hives, Mrs. Edmund
Henderson, Archie
Hall, John
Hart, Geo.
Horne, Geo.
Hodgson, E.
Hepworth, R.L.
Hepworth, Mrs.
Haste, Harold
Haste, Mrs.
Hillman, Mrs. John
Henderson, Mrs. Jas.
Humber, Mrs. Henry
Hanna, Mrs. W.H.
Hough, Melvin
Hoggh, Mrs. M.
Humber, Rod
Hurd, Waino
Hurs, C.
Huget, W.
Houston, A.
Hooker, Stan
Hammer, George
Hayhoe, Milton
Hayhoe, Mrs.

Healy, Mrs. L.
Hazlett, Wm. Jnr.
Harper, W.R.

Ives, Mrs. Ella
Isaacson, A.F.

Jones, R.E.
Jamison, Harvey
Jarvis, Mrs. W.M.
Johns, Mrs. E.G.
Johnson, P.W.
Johnson, Mrs.
Johnson, F.K.
Johnson, Mrs.
Johnson, W.S.
Jardine, P.A.
Jacobson, J.C.
Johnstone, Ellis A.
Jarvis, James
Jarvis, Mrs.
Johnson, J.E.
Johnson, J.O.
Johnson, Mrs.
Jorgenson, S.S.
Jamieson, Dave
Johnson, Elmer
Johnson, Mrs.
Johnson, Chas.
Johnson, Mrs.
Janssen, Wm.
Janssen, Mrs.
Jamieson, H.H.
Jamieson, Mrs.
Johns, T.R.
Jarvis, PlB.
Jones, Mrs. R.E.
Jamieson, W.G.
Jarvis, Mrs. James
Johnson, Joe
Johnson, J.
Jaffrey, James
Jaffrey, Mrs.
Johnston, L.M.
Johnston, Mrs.
Jahraus, Mrs. Wm
Junte, Mrs. Carl
Johnson, H.R.
Johnson, Mrs.
Johnson, Mrs. E.H.

Stuart,
edy, A.M.
sep, Euastace
r, W.J.
se, B.F.
Mrs. P.E.
sep, L.
ings, Wesley
ing, Mrs.
er, Mrs. Robert
set, Mrs. E.
rew, C.E.
rew, Mrs.
Theo.
ch, F.W.
ch, Mrs.
nt, J.C.
y, W.J.C.
Mrs. J.C.
se, Mrs. Wm.
se, William
o, F.O.
r, Mrs. C.E.
on, Thos.
on, Mrs.
Fred
tila, N.J.
tila, Mrs.
y, George
y, John R.
y Mrs.
Mrs. George

m, Benson
m, Mrs.
ence, V.H.
J.B.
ig, F.P.
ig, P.F.
ence, Chris
l, R.A.
ard, P.H.
l, Geo. A.
l, Mrs. A.H.
l, Niels.
aster, R.V.
l, W.E.
l, Mrs.
thead, Jack
thead, Robt.
rance, Mrs. J.G.
on, Wm.
S.J.
rance, J.G.
e, R.L.
e, Mrs.
rence, Mrs. V.H.

Logan, Maitland
Lantermann, A.
Lantermann, Mrs.
Lawrence, Jack
Lawrence, Mrs.
Latam, Mrs. Benson
Learned, B.C.
Long, Dr. Benson
Long, Mrs.
Longer, Carl
Longer, Mrs.
Lobb, Carl
Lund, Mrs. Geo. A.
Lantermann, W.
Long, Howard
Lorentson, I.
Little, W.E.
Lyons, Mrs. W.
Lister, R.A.
Lund, Mrs. R.A.
Locke, S.A.
Locke, Mrs. J.M.
Lemon, M.P.
Lemon, Mrs.
Lawton, Mrs. W.H.
Larritt, Dave
Lowe, Peter H.
Larritt, Mrs. Dave
Leithead, Mrs. J.
Ladwig, Mrs. Fred
Logghborough, J.
Leavitt, B.G.
Lee, Thos.
Lee, Mrs.
Little, A.R.
Lincoln, A.
Lawrence, R. Nigel

Mitchell, A.B.
Mitchell, Mrs.
Moon, Geo.
Moore, R.R.
Markle, C.G.
Maunsell, H.B.
Munro, Alex
Morrison, Dave
Munro, A.S.
Meeres, Horace
Meeres, Mrs.
Munro, Mrs. S.E.
Martin, Tom
Martin, Donald
Martin, Mrs. Mattie
Magee, H.M.
Martin, Angus
Mott, H.J.
Martin, John

Mohring, Wm.
Meeres, Mrs. M.J.
Munro, Mrs. W.J.
Matheson, Norman
Munroe, Jas.
Morrison, Mrs. W.M.
Miller, John S.
Martin, Thos
Morrison, Mrs. Dave
Martin, Mrs. Angus
Millen, Alex
Millen, Mrs.
Millen, Thos
Millen, Mrs.
Millen, E.S.
Millen, Mrs.
Martin, John
Martin, Mrs.
Manning, M.J.
Manning, Mrs.
Morton, John
Maga, B.
Michener, N.
Michener, Mrs.
Morrisroe, Mrs. Ed.
Martin, Stuart
Miller, J.
Martin, Mrs.
Martin, Mrs.
Morrisroe, Ed.
Morrisroe, Mary
Miller, Mrs. W.J.
Morrical, Mrs. P.A.
Morrow, Mrs. W.A.
Moxley, Clarence L.
Michener, W.S.
Matthews, Elmer
Matthews, Mrs.
Meeres, Ray
Meeres, Mrs.
Moore, Mrs. Oswald
Moore, Fred J.
Markle, C.G.
Markwich, S.R.
Markwick, Mrs. A.R.
Murray, F.T.
Martin, J.A.
Martin, Ken
Martin, Mrs.
Moore, Fred B.
Moore, Mrs.
Melton, W.R.
Morton, Mrs. John
Munce, Mrs. Agnes
Maveety, Mrs. B.W.
Mannix, Mrs. E.J.
Morrison, Geo.
Milne, Alex

Mrs.
Mrs. Donald
on, Geo.
, Wm.
Lewis
Henry
th, Jack
ther, Mrs.
, Levi
, Mrs.
G.
els, F.C.
, J.
, Mrs.
eld, S.
s, Willie
eld, Mrs. S.L.
ner, Mrs. E.
ar, John
nnel, Geo. H.
ne, A.D.
dge, Mrs. F.A.
ight, Dr. J.A.
gart, Geo. Mrs.
n, W.J.
non, Mrs. Edith
by, Paul
alum, Mrs. Bertha
py, Mrs. Annie
gart, Geo.
e, E.C.
ne, Allan
non, W.L.
non, Mrs. D.W.
e, Neil
en, J.
en, Mrs.
n, Mrs. W.J.
ne, Alex
ald, Norman
nald, R.
nald, Mrs. Norman
n, Chas.
n, Mrs.
ee, John
re, J.R.
de, Charles
de, Mrs.
ll, David
ll, Mrs.
lister, E.
lister, Mrs.
lister, J.W.
lister, Mrs.
mid, C.
rmid, Mrs.
anon, Locke
anon, Mrs.
anon, Mrs. W.

McIntosh, Julius
McDougall, H.R.
McConnell, Ed.
McKinnon, Edith
McCulloch, F.D.
McCulloch, Mrs.
McCann, Estella
McFarlane, Mrs. Fred
McCann, T.A.
McKinnon, Catherine
MacKinnon, N.C.
McCann, Mrs. John
McBride, E.
McBride, Mrs. E.
McBlane, Mrs.
McBlane, Mrs.
McCook, Nan
McNeill, Margaret
McFadden, Hester
MacLeod, Mrs. M.
McKinnon, Port
McPhee, C.M.
McPhee, J.A.
McPhee, Mrs.
McBlain, Mrs. Alec
McKinnon, Mrs. Port.
McDonald, J.M.
McIntosh, Mrs. Julius
McBlain, A.W.
McBlain, Mrs.
McKinnon, J.L.
McKinnon, Mrs.
McGorman, A.B.
McGorman, Mrs.
MacDonald, J.
McLevin, Hugh
McLevin, Mrs.
McFaul, R.E.
McFaul, Mrs.
McKenzie, E.B.
McKenzie, Mrs.
McLellan, Mrs. A.
MacKay, Hugh
McPhee, Mrs. Chas.
McKay, Mrs. H.D.
MacKay, Don
McKee, F.W.
McKee, Mrs.
McFarlane, Wm.
McFarlane, Mrs. Wm.
McFarlane, Don
McRobbie, Jas.
McRobbie, Mrs.
McDougall, Hugh
McDougall, Mrs.
McPhee, Niel, Junr.
McTavish, Mrs. H.
McKay, Mrs. Don
MacKenzie, R.M.

McNutt, J.
McEachern, E.
McCabe, H.
McAfee, J.
McAfee, Dan
McEachern, J.
McDonald, Mrs. H.R.
McKay, W.C.
McKinnon, J.D.
McDonald, Mrs. A.L.
McDonald, Hector
McDonald, Alma

Nyman, John
Nelson, H.
Northey, Mrs. C.L.
Northey, Mrs. Walter
Norby, Oscar
Norby, Mrs.
Nelson, H.
Nelson, Mrs.
Nelson, Gus.
Nelson, Mrs.
Niblock, Wm.
Niblock, Mrs.
Neal, James
Nielsen, O.M.
Nilsson, Gus.
Nolan, W.E.
Nolan, Mrs.
Nichols, S.S.
Nichols, Mrs.
Nielson, Walter
Nicholson, George
Northey, W.H.
Northey, Mrs.
Nash, Percy

Oldford, J.C.
Opie, E.T.
Orme, Geo.
Olsen, Andrew
Olson, L.S.
Ogden, J.E.
Ogden, Mrs.
Olsen, Hans
Oxtoby, Geo.
O'Connor, Ed.
Orme, Mrs. Geo.
Olmstead, S.
Osmond, S.C.
Opie, Mrs. E.T.
Oldford, Mrs. J.C.
Oldford, Terence.

rans, Dr. R.
rter, F.A.
rs, Mrs. Mary H.
re, W.E.
ington, W.
oy, J.F.H.
eon, Mrs. P
e, Alex
Roy T.
son, Mrs. H.S.
oy, Mrs. E.M.H.
oy, E.M.H.
o, Edwin
lips, Mrs. S.B.
r, F.J.
r, Mrs.
y, Mrs. Mary
e, Alex
els, Ivan
ey, W.E.
elly, O.
sick, R.M.H.
ce, Roger
els, Milford
r, Arthur
Elias
Mrs. Elijah
son, Nellie
y, C.J.
man, F.
man, Mrs.
nelly, Oscar
ot, Mrs. Annie
rer, D.C.
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ye, Mrs.
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umer, A.L. Mrs.
rson, Lars
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an, J.I.
an, Mrs.
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Mrs. Ronald
ey, E.H.
dergast, Mrs. J.C.
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ce, Mrs.
inson, R.J.
inson, Mrs.

Parsons, Dr. W.B.
Parsons, Mrs.
Pixley, Ted
Prendergast, J.C.
Pennington, J.H.
Pollock, Ray
Pollock, Mrs.
Packer, H. Senr.
Pierce, Charles
Pierce, Mrs.
Payne, Gordon
Pierce, Mrs. Roger
Pye, Elijah
Parker, C.P.
Pewtress, Mrs. J.J.
Pomerleau, Ted.
Pardue, Ray
Pardue, Mrs.
Pomerleau, Mrs. Ted.
Payne, Mrs. Gordon
Preeper, H.A.
Parry, Albert
Parry, Mrs.
Parker, C.R.
Parker, Mrs.
Piper, F.E.
Patterson, F.G.
Patterson, Mrs.
Powell, A.
Potter, J.H.
Peel, Thos. W.
Peel, Mrs.
Parker, Mrs. D.C.

Quantz, E.A.

Reay, W.J.
Ritson, Wilson
Ritson, Mrs. Hanna
Raymer, B.
Reeves, James
Rodd, Richard
Richards, J.J.
Robbins, V.B.
Robbins, Mrs.
Rosse, Joe
Reidy, Mike
Robinson, W.A.
Rode, R.
Rode, Mrs.
Raymer, Mrs. B.
Reay, Chris
Reay, Mrs.
Russell, P.
Russell, Mrs.

Ritson, Nelson
Ritson, Mrs.
Rogers, S.H.
Richards, J.L.
Richards, Mrs.
Richards, Mrs. J.J.
Ruby, E.M.
Ruby, Mrs.
Rice, Mrs. James
Reddern, Mrs.
Rabidou, Walter
Rabidou, Mrs.
Reierson, E.L.
Richards, John
Richards, Mrs.
Reed, Melvin
Roberts, F.G.
Roberts, Mrs.
Richards, E.
Richards, Mrs.
Rollis, R.J.
Rideout, L.D.
Reay, Mrs. W.J.
Rutherford, Ed.
Rutherford, Mrs.
Richards, Mrs. J.L.
Rideout, Mrs. L.D.
Rutherford, A.
Rutherford, Mrs.

Speight, J.Arthur
Smith, Walter A.
Smith, Mrs. G.W.
Shaw, J.O.
Shaw, Sid
Stephenson, W.J.
Stephenson, A.T.
Stephenson, Mrs.
Springbett, Wm.
Springbett, Mrs.
Stewart, Norman
Smith, Donald
Stevens, R.S.
Stickland, W.G.
Sigurdson, O.
Smith, Bert
Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth
Stone, C.H.
Skene, Jack
Skene, Mrs.
Springbett, J.C.
Smith, Chas.
Snell, Chas. H.
Sandercock, W.J.
Sandercock, Mrs.
Stewart, Dora

ewert, Mrs. Ester L.
ather, John
in, Percy W.
er, A.S.
p, R.J.
ng, W.J.F.
ng, John
ng, Mrs.
in, Walter R.
n, Mrs.
urt, Mrs. Norman
lair, David
henson, Doug
., H.J.
rs, Geo.
rs, Mrs.
rberg, H.
rberg, Mrs.
er, Fred
er, Mrs.
n, Rodney
n, Mrs.
er, D.
er, Mrs.
y, J.
y, Mrs.
rdson, Mrs. O.
rdson, S.K.
rdson, Mrs.
t, John
t, Mrs.
t, Gilbert
t, Geo.
lds, J.
heman, Mrs. C.
enett, A.
enett, John
enett, Mrs.
henson, Joe
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henson, W.W.
henson, Mrs.
tlay, H.J.
tlay, Mrs.
nson, Mrs. J.S.
art, J.
y, J.L.
y, Mrs.
celey, E.
., Mrs. Sid
nsberg, Gus.
nsberg, Mrs.
lair, A.T.
lair, Mrs.
h, M.L. Mrs.
h, Bruce
h, Mrs. M.J.
nsberg, Mrs. H.

Shorrock, J.W.
Smith, J.C.
Skocdopole, John
Snider, Mrs. Minnie
Schmidt, W.N.
Smith, Mrs. P.E.
Solic, Wm.
Spenceley, Herbert
Spenceley, Mrs.
Snell, Mrs. C.H.
Stephenson, Mrs. W.J.
Sorenson, Gordon
Sorenson, Mrs.
Smith, Mrs. Percy W.
Smith, W.H.
Smith, Mrs.
Smith, James
Smith, Harry C.
Smith, Mrs. Florence E.
Storey, Fred W.
Storey, Mrs.
Stringer, W.H.
Stanway, Thos. S.
Stanway, Mrs.
Sharman, Holland
Sharman, Mrs.
Sveinson, J.S.
Smith, John
Smith, Sidney
Schmidt, Mrs. W.H.
Soderberg, E.P.
Shantz, B.A.
Smith, R.
Schuneman, Mrs. A.
Swanson, Mrs. Alice
Snider, Roy
Sundahl, I.
Storey, Carol
Supina, W.J.
Supina, Mrs.
Smith, R.J.
Spoor, Fred
Shantz, Tete
Smith, Mrs. A.E.
Soderberg, Mrs. E.P.
Stone, Mrs. Florence
Staniforth, A.
Staniforth, Mrs.
Stewart, W.F.
Smith, E.S.
Swainson, S.
Sundahl, Mrs. I.
Smith, Mrs. R.J.
Stewart, Mrs. W.F.
Swainson, Mrs. S.
Sveinson, Paul
Sveinson, Mrs. Paul
Scott, Mrs. Wesley

Smith, Harry C.
Stephenson, E.E.
Stephenson, Mrs.
Sankey, Myra
Shorrock, James W.

Turnbull, Fred
Trimble, W.H.
Towers, Tom
Thompson, Mrs. Ina
Thompson, G.H.
Tutenberg, H.J.
Tallman, Frank
Tallman, Mrs.
Trimble, Roy C.
Telning, Larry
Taylor, Mrs. Cliff
Thompson, Mrs.
Turner, John
Turner, Mrs.
Tolson, Henry
Tolson, Mrs.
Thompson, G.W.
Thomson, Mrs.
Thompson, Chas.
Trimble, Mrs. H.W.
Towers, Fred
Tetley, L.H.
Truant, R.V.
Thorn, O.W.
Thorn, Mrs.
Thorne, Mrs. G.
Teague, Mrs. T.
Taylor, Mrs. R.C.
Tester, F.W.
Thompson, Mrs. H.R.
Taylor, John
Taylor, Mrs.
Trussler, M.
Trussler, Mrs. M.
Thompson, Jack
Thatcher, Donald
Thatcher, Mrs.
Teasdale, J.
Taylor, A.G.
Taylor, Mrs.
Tetley, Rex W.E.
Tetley, Mrs.
Taylor, W.J.
Teague, T.
Towers, R.
Towers, Mrs.
Thompson, Mrs. Jack
Teasdale, Mrs. J.
Thomas, J.H.
Truant, Mrs. R.V.
Thompson, Jim

son, C.A.
son, H.H.J.
son, Mrs.
ey, W.H.
bull, Mrs. Fred
send, J.
send, Mrs.

rwood, Mrs. Mary
Chas.
Mrs.
hart, D.D.
hart, Mrs.
hart, D.S.
A.L.

ent, E.S.
ers, Stanley W.
lyke, R.A.
lyke, Mrs.
Oscar
ey, J.E.
ers, W.S.
ers, Mrs.
ent, E.F.
hrin, C.E.
hrin, Mrs.
ers, Mrs. Stanley
ent, Fred

orn, Mrs. Lizzie
ins, John
e, R.M.
e, W.J.
ght, James
liver, R.B.
ter, L.B.
C, Wm.
son, Mrs. S.
e, Jack
e, Mrs.
son, Samuel F.
son, Steve
ght, Joseph
ght, Mrs.
e, Chris
e, Mrs.
e, Miss.
son, W.J.
e, Mrs. R.M.
liver, K.M.
ton, Russell
mot, E.
ght, J.E.
ls, Walter
te, Mrs. Jack

Wright, John
Wright, Mrs.
Wells, Mrs. Walter
Wilson, Mrs. Steve
Wells, W.M.
Wood, Aubrey
Wood, Mrs.
Wells, E.R.
Wells, Mrs.
Wilson, T.E.
Wilson, Mrs.
Wallace, Gretchen L.
Welliver, R.B.
Welliver, Mrs.
Weber, L.A.
Weber, Mrs.
Waddy, Mrs. Richard
Whaley, W.E.
Whaley, Mrs.
Watson, F.
Wright, Rev. J.W.
Wanless, Alice P.
Whittemore, Ada
Wright, Mrs. J.W.
Wood, James A.
Woof, R.F.
Wilson, A.E.
Wilson, Mrs.
Wright, David
Wilson, Wm.
White, Tom
White, Mrs.
Wilson, Ward
Wilson, Mrs.
Wood, Mrs. James A.
Whiteside, R.B.
Walker, Tom
Willie, W.
Wilson, Ted
Winter, Wm.
Wood, E.A.
Wallin, E.
Wiggins, K.
Wiggins, Mrs.
Withers, Harry
Whittle, Mrs. N.
Wingate, Mrs. Richard
Wong, Wing
Wong, Wing, Mrs.
Warren, Chas.
White, T.A.
White, Mrs. S.A.
Warren, Mrs. M.
Wallin, G.S.
Willson, E.J.
Willson, Mrs.
Woitte, O.A.
Woitte, Mrs.
Wright, Agnes

Warren, Mrs. Chas.
Wallin, Mrs. E.
Westcott, Jas. W.
Wilde, Mrs. W.J.
Wills, R.C.
Warren, Mrs. C.
Wilson, J.E.
White, Dr. C.A.

Appendix

POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES AND ALBERTA

In 1875 the parliament of Canada passed the North-West Territories Act which called for a council consisting of five members appointed by the Governor-in-Council and other members to be elected by the people in communities with a white population of one thousand people within an area of one thousand square miles. This system continued until 1888 when the appointing of members was abolished in favor of an elected assembly whose members served for a three-year term.

The North-West Territories Act, although passed in 1875, was not proclaimed until October 7, 1876. The first Lieutenant-Governor was the Honorable David Laird, who established his capital at Livingstone (Swan River) until government buildings were completed at Battleford. At the first session of the Council at Swan River in March, 1877 twelve bills were passed and sent to Ottawa for confirmation. The bills dealt with protection of the buffalo, roads, infectious diseases, prevention of forest and prairie fires, the administration of justice, and masters and servants.

In addition to Lieutenant-Governor Laird the members of the Council were Matthew Ryan and Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Richardson, who were stipendiary magistrates. Lieutenant Colonel James Macleod, Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police, was also a member. A. E. Forget, appointed Lieutenant-Governor in 1898, was the Clerk of the Council. By the time the second session opened in 1878 the Council had received wider powers, enabling it to deal with prisons, property and civil rights, marriage, and the formation of municipalities having powers of local taxation. This session repealed the ordinance for the protection of the buffalo, and from then on there was no hope that the great herds could be saved. Pascal Breland was appointed as an additional member of the Council. The fear of possible trouble with Indian tribes led the authorities at this period to begin the organization of voluntary militia. Companies were formed at Battleford, St. Laurent and Prince Albert.

The first elected member of the Council was Lawrence Clark, chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Carlton, who was returned for the electoral district of Lorne. He attended the session of the Council at Battleford in 1881. By 1883, when Honorable Edgar Dewdney

replaced David Laird as Lieutenant-Governor, there were six elected members of the Council: Captain D. H. McDowell for Lorne; John C. Hamilton for Broadview; T. W. Jackson for Qu'Appelle; William White for Regina; James H. Ross for Moose Jaw.

In 1884 the Council passed an Administration of Justice ordinance which divided the North-West Territories into the judicial districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. These in turn were subdivided into Regina, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Macleod, Edmonton, Battleford, Prince Albert Districts. There were three stipendiary magistrates, one at Battleford, one at Macleod and one at Regina, sixty-three justices of the peace, and thirty-four notaries in the North-West Territories. This session (1884) saw the development of opposition to the Lieutenant-Governor's control of expenditures. A party led by Frank Oliver of Edmonton and J. H. Ross of Moose Jaw demanded that the Council have practically the same powers that the Legislative Assemblies possessed in the provinces. The Second Riel Rebellion interrupted this struggle. However, in the fall of 1885 an elaborate memorial was prepared and presented to the Ottawa government asking for better terms for the Territories. The federal government dealt liberally

with the requests. The Habeas Corpus Act was extended to the Territories, a supreme court with appellate jurisdiction was established, two senators were to be appointed, four members of the House of Commons, two for Assiniboia and one each for Saskatchewan and Alberta, were to be elected, and the powers of the Council were extended. In the elections of 1887 the Territories elected the following federal representatives; D. W. Davis for Alberta; D. W. McDowall for Saskatchewan; W. D. Perley for Assiniboia West.

The last session of the North-West Council was held in 1887. The elected members were appointed a committee to prepare a memorial respecting the future constitution of the North-West Territories. Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney disapproved of the memorial, and wrote to the federal authorities about it; "During the sitting of the Council a memorial was adopted recommending a purely representative form of government to take the place of our present Council. I feel that it is my duty to inform you that my information, from several scattered centres of population, does not indicate that such is the general feeling of the people. A strong fear is expressed that a purely representative form of government will lead to

direct taxation and thus impose upon settlers burdens which they are at present unable to bear." However, by amendments to the North-West Territories Act in 1888 the Dominion parliament created a legislative assembly of twenty-two members for the Territories, with three legal experts who might take part in all debates but not vote in the assembly. The assembly's term was not to exceed three years.

Honorable Edgar Dewdney was succeeded by Honorable Joseph Royal as Lieutenant-Governor. When the first legislative assembly convened at Regina in 1888, W. C. Wilson, Edmonton, was chosen speaker. The advisory council consisted of F. W. Haultain, Macleod; D. F. Jelly, North Regina; William Sutherland, also Regina; and Hillyard Mitchell, Batoche. Strained relations ensued between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Assembly over the powers and responsibilities of the advisory council, with the result that the first advisory council resigned, and a new one consisting of Messrs. Brett, Betts, Jelly, and Richardson took its place, but failed to win the confidence of the Assembly, and tendered its resignation, which the Lieutenant-Governor refused to accept. The Assembly then refused to consider supply for 1889-90 until the expenditures for the

preceding year had been accounted for. As a result the Lieutenant-Governor was forced to accept the resignations. He attempted unsuccessfully to form a new council with Mr. Tweed of Medicine Hat as the leader. Mr. Tweed refused to serve unless the claims of the Assembly were granted. After the elected body prorogued, the Lieutenant-Governor was forced to appoint a council regardless of whether or not they possessed the confidence of the elected representatives. After the second Assembly had been elected in 1891 a delegation went to Ottawa where they succeeded in having certain changes made in the Act. The Lieutenant-Governor was given power to dissolve the Assembly at any time and to call an election. The Assembly, to which enlarged powers were granted, was to sit separately from the Lieutenant-Governor. The framework of responsible government was being established slowly but surely.

The third Legislative Assembly convened in the fall of 1895. Again a memorial was prepared which demanded greater powers for the Territorial Government, but not provincial status, although Dr. Brett of Banff for the first time raised the issue of making Alberta a separate province. The demands of the memorial were accepted in Ottawa, and at the opening of the session in 1899 Lieutenant-Governor M. C. Cameron declared that the changes meant a completely

responsible system of government. An executive council with members responsible for specific departments was then created. From then on the main issue was the creation of a new province or provinces. The Territorial Government drew up a bill of rights which demanded all the powers enjoyed by the older provinces. Considerable discussion and negotiation occurred between the Federal Government and the Territorial Government on the issues involved. One issue was the problem of one or two provinces. Although one capital had served for the whole North-West Territories, the conflicting claims of various towns for status as a capital was one factor in the decision to create Alberta and Saskatchewan. Incidentally, in the Territorial Assembly party lines had not been drawn to any extent because many of the prominent men of the group felt that such a division would not be in the interests of good government. It was only after the Autonomy Acts of 1905 that the public men of the new provinces formed the distinct parties, which were, perhaps, a necessity for successful cabinet government.

The Alberta Act came into force on September 1. Honorable G. H. V. Bulyea had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor in August, and Honorable A. C. Rutherford of Strathcona was called upon to form a government on September 1. His cabinet, which was Liberal, consisted of the following men: President of the Council, Provincial Treasurer and

Minister of Education, Honorable A. C. Rutherford, Strathcona; Attorney-General, Honorable C. W. Cross, Edmonton; Minister of Public Works, Honorable W. H. Cushing, Calgary: Provincial Secretary and Minister of Agriculture, Honorable W. T. Finlay. In the general election which was held in November, 1905, the principal issues were the rights of minorities to establish separate schools and the ownership of public lands. The party lines were along the Liberal and Conservative patterns. At the first meeting of the legislature in March, 1906 Honorable C. W. Fisher of Cochrane became Speaker, and J. R. Crowell of Red Deer became the first clerk of the assembly. The chief question in the first session was the location of the capital. Edmonton, Strathcona, Red Deer, Banff and Calgary advanced claims for it, but a vote of sixteen to eight settled the matter in favor of Edmonton.

For five years the provincial scene was not troubled by any serious dispute. Then in 1910 the Liberal party split in a furious quarrel over the guaranteeing by the province of the bonds of the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway. Honorable A. J. Sifton, chief justice of Alberta formed a government when Mr. Rutherford resigned. It was in this same year that Edward Michener of Red Deer became

the leader of the Conservatives and, therefore, leader of the opposition. In the general election of 1913 thirty-eight Liberals and eighteen Conservatives were elected. The financial statement given by the premier in September of the year is of interest for purposes of comparison. The total outstanding indebtedness was \$15,741,981. The authorized amount of the railway bond guarantee was \$68,631,800 with \$30,124,700 actually outstanding. The assets of the province were estimated at \$110,378,000.

The next general election was held in 1917. Because several of the members were serving overseas with the Canadian forces, a special act was passed by the Legislative Assembly declaring that these men were members of the new house without having to stand for election. The soldiers and nursing sisters of the province were represented by two members-at-large, Captain Robert Pearson, and Nursing Sister Roberta McAdams. Miss McAdams, and Mrs. L. C. McKinney of Claresholm, representing the Non-Partisan League, were the first women ever elected to a Canadian or British legislative assembly. The election had returned thirty-three Liberals, nineteen Conservatives and two Non-Partisans. Honorable Charles Stewart became premier in succession to Mr. Sifton.

In 1919 the United Farmers of Alberta entered politics, easily winning the by-election in the Cochrane constituency

over the Liberal organization. Between the years 1918 and 1921 the membership of the Farmers Party increased from 18,000 to 33,000. In 1921 a political platform was adopted and the resolution made to contest every constituency in Alberta at the next provincial election. In July, 1921 the U. F. A. won thirty-nine seats, the Liberals fourteen, Labor four, Independents three, Conservatives 1. The swing away from the old-line parties, a feature of Alberta politics ever since, had started. Economic interests were beginning to become the great factor in party affiliations. The uncertainties regarding markets and prices for their products in the period following the assured market and prices for all they could grow were forcing the farmers to unite. Herbert Greenfield, a prominent member of the United Farmers of Alberta executive became the premier. In 1925 he was succeeded by J. E. Brownlee, the former attorney-general. The United Farmers held office until the economic storm of the depression forced them out of office in favor of the Aberhart Social Credit movement.

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